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Pound reaches new high after 'revalue' hint

By ANTHONY HARRIS, Economics Editor

The International Monetary Fund is recommending that the pound be valued by over 7 per cent, according to reports yesterday from Tokyo. The reports were described as "largely accurate" by monetary officials in Bonn.

Hedging on the London foreign exchange yesterday carried the pound to a new high value of \$2.48—and in Frankfurt, the mark rose even more sharply.

The mark was among the other currencies mentioned in the Tokyo report, which said the German mark would be revalued by about 12½ per cent and the Japanese yen 15 per cent. The buying pressure for pounds and marks, which has been building

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Over-valued

The central question is the adjustment relative to Europe. Until the summer, when the British trade surplus rose to its present record height, Whitehall was hoping to achieve an effective devaluation by the floating of the German mark and Dutch guilder. The balance of opinion is that the pound is still probably over-valued in relation to European competition.

The new IMF revaluation for the pound is substantially bigger than that suggested in a working paper leaked in Washington some six weeks ago—evidence that two further months of enormous trade surplus have promoted Britain in the ranks of revaluation candidates.

The Germans are also likely to be alarmed at the size of the suggested revaluation. Within the last week Professor Schiller, the German economics Minister, has repeated that the revaluation Germany would accept would be less than that already achieved by the floating of the mark—about 8½ per cent when he spoke, but now nearing 10

per cent. The pound would have to rise another 10 cents to \$2.58 to reach the level suggested by the IMF.

The IMF is said to have based its suggestions on calculations of the likely surpluses of Britain, Japan, and Germany until the end of next year. The British Government is likely to argue that this is far too short a time horizon from the British point of view.

The British economy is unlikely to be fully extended—and thus importing at "full employment" level until 1972, and only then will we begin to assume the balance of payments burden of EEC membership. Meanwhile, a 7 per cent revaluation might hit British exports and delay still further the recovery of the economy.

The first confrontation over the IMF figures will come this weekend, when the chief economic officials of the Group of Ten rich trading nations meet in Washington. On Sunday their Finance Ministers will resume the talks which ended in deadlock at Lancaster House, London, last week. No figures for parity changes were then discussed. Then comes the annual meeting of the IMF.

At the meetings the US will come under attack again on trading policy and the price of gold. The gold price question has been reopened very effectively by Congressman Henry Reubin Smith, the man who started the whole crisis when his congressional committee recommended a devaluation of the dollar.

Gold rise

He has followed this up by saying he thought Congress was likely to approve a rise in the price of gold as part of a general monetary settlement. The gold price was one of the main issues in the Lancaster House deadlock, so this provoked new speculation in currency markets. Earlier this week the Bank of England and the German central bank were buying dollars on a substantial scale for the first time since markets reopened, in order to prevent the pound and the mark rising too high against the dollar.

Dollar slumps, page 14



Relief mission in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace yesterday. The changing of the guard was too much for one handsman of the Royal Irish Rangers. (The Rangers are the first Irish infantry regiment to provide the guard)

Near thing as papers dispute is settled

By JOHN TORODE, Labour Correspondent

The Fleet Street pay dispute is over and national newspapers are appearing this morning for the first time since production stopped on Saturday night.

But it was a near thing. Early yesterday evening there were delays in several Fleet Street offices as National Graphical Association chapels (branches) protested against one aspect of the 15-month pay settlement reached on Wednesday night. The publishers insisted that NGA members involved in the dispute would not be paid during the period of closure.

An emergency meeting of the NGA committee issued a statement stressing that "each newspaper individually had again confirmed the attitude it had maintained during the negotiations that it would not make payment for this period." Later, an NGA spokesman added that each newspaper had made it clear that, in the event of one newspaper having its production disrupted, they would all close.

The pay deal will cost the industry about £6 millions over the 15 months to September 30, next year, and add about 7 per cent to the total wage bill. This compares with the previous offer of a 12-month deal costing about £4.8 millions, or just under 6 per cent.

This offer was for a flat £1 a week increase plus the consolidation of a £1.0p cost-of-living bonus. NGA members, who claim to be among the most highly skilled workers in Fleet Street, said that this would erode differentials.

Under the new deal worked out with the aid of Mr Vic Feather, the general secretary of the TUC, individual unions have a choice of how they want to take the increases.

The choices are:

1. From July 1, 1971, to September 30, 1972, either a 5 per cent increase on earnings or a 10 per cent increase on basic rates, whichever is greater.
2. An increase of £1.12½ on the basic rate or a 10 per cent increase in the basic rate, whichever is greater.

The cost-of-living bonus will be consolidated in two equal stages on January 1, 1973, and April 1, 1972.

The advantage of this unusual solution is that it enables each union involved to go for the formula which suits its members best, without disturbing the autonomy of the others.

Mr Feather is now expected to make informal approaches to the various print unions in an effort to see if long-term discussion about reforms in Fleet Street pay structures is possible. There are likely to be two-way

talks between the NGA and the Operative Printers (NATOP).

Mr Frank Rogers, the NPA director, yesterday went out of his way to speak of the help given by Mr Feather. "Through the good offices of Mr Feather a formula was found which overcame the critical issue of differentials," he said. "We have achieved a settlement in four days of hard bargaining, in spite of the fact that negotiations had been going on for several months without getting anywhere."

Mr Rogers added that the publishers had gained the two most important elements they had been seeking—15 months' stability in labour costs and assurances that there would be no further disruptions during that time.

Mr John Bonfield, the NGA general secretary, was "reasonably satisfied" with the deal. "I am confident that it will be accepted by my members," he said, adding that he hoped the NPA would now recognise that it had acted unfairly in locking out workers who had a genuine grievance. He also spoke of the "quite remarkable" spirit of understanding between the unions involved.

Leader comment, page 12: Background to the dispute, page 13

TV, radio—2

Arts	10, 11	Horner	19
Books	10	Overseas	24
Business	14-15	Parliament	9
Entertainment	8	Sport	20, 21
Films	11	Women	21
Home	5-9	Words	19, 21

Classified—19

Callaghan wades in on Ulster

By NORMAN SHRAPNEL, Parliamentary Correspondent

It was a bold and, in its way, brilliant performance we had from Mr James Callaghan last night. He dominated the House of Commons with a remarkable mixture of straight talk, instant diplomacy, and leading questions.

Deciding that opening day of the Northern Ireland debate had been far too inhibited, almost extinguishing itself in its natural anxiety not to say anything that would make a desperate situation worse, the former Home Secretary settled for fresh and highly unconventional tactics on the second day—unconventional for Parliament, if not for the other media.

It was the Jim Callaghan Show—essentially serious, devoted to the most burning topics of the hour, he determined to get straight answers to straight questions.

Parliament, page 9: Leader comment, page 12: Interview with IRA leader, page 12: Internment policy, back page

questions. Judging from the expressions on a number of important faces it was also a rather unnerving way to run a crisis.

Instead of making the carefully soothing sort of front bench speech that was expected of him, Mr Callaghan set himself up as the swinging chairman of an Ulster panel. He flung his key queries into unexpected corners of the studio.

He turned to Mr Gerry Fitt, who leads the Social Democratic and Labour Party, which has withdrawn from Stormont over internment. First question. If that problem could be solved, would the party be willing to participate in a Northern Ireland Government together with Ulster Unionists?

Mr Fitt's answer was that his party would be "willing and anxious" to enter into negotiations. Cheers from some members of the audience. A great advance, Mr Callaghan said, and proceeded at once with his next question.

Could Mr Fitt imagine conditions in which a minority would be willing—if the majority conceded it—to take part in Government? "Yes," was Mr Fitt's unhesitating reply.

More wild excitement among the audience. Eminent members of the panel like the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary looked a bit out of things though, as Mr Callaghan was doing but steering the way for

Turn to back page, col. 5

Harvey Smith victory

HARVEY SMITH, the show jumper who gave judges a victory V-sign, will get his \$2,000 prize money after all. The British Show Jumping Association stewards decided yesterday that the gesture came within conduct rules, although he should have realised that it might be thought offensive. Smith said he would give £150 to charity.

Report, page 21

Lovers' park

CANVEY COUNCIL is to keep a car park open later at night partly so that it can be used by couples. Councilor Sidney Alderman said: "If a young girl got into difficulty, she would be able to get out of the car right in the centre of town."

BBC post

BRIAN WENHAM, aged 34, "Panorama" editor, takes over next year as head of BBC current affairs from John Grist, who becomes English regional controller of radio and television.

Milky way

A MILK ROUNDSMAN until 1958, Mr Isaac Emmanuel has launched his window cleaning company, Express Services (Holdings) on the Stock Exchange with a valuation of £1 million. "If you can please anybody," he comments.

Boy of 14 in Turkish gaol

By MALCOLM STUART

An English boy, aged 14, has been in prison in Istanbul for over six weeks. It is written to his mother to say that he expects to be sentenced to five years' imprisonment for allegedly smuggling 26 kilos of cannabis into Turkey.

He is Timothy Davey. His mother, Mrs Jill Davey, aged 35, says she left Istanbul after her son's arrest—with her five younger children—on instructions from the British consul. She is now trying to raise a £50 fee needed to arrange legal representation. The Foreign Office confirmed that Timothy was being held in the Turkish prison and said: "There is not much we can do about this, but it would normally be up to his mother to provide for his defence."

The boy was arrested on August 11 as the Davey family started the end of a journey to India and Nepal and back. They left last October in a van with other children are Susan, aged 13, Nicholas, aged 11, and Abigail, aged 6. Also with the party was Mr Christopher, aged 23, of Dartford, Kent.

Mrs Davey gave up the tenancy of her council house at Exeter, near Dartford, and took her children away from school to make the trip. "I know people will think I was irrationally irresponsible but nearly 11 of this journey has been a wonderful experience for my children," she said. "They have had an education they can dream about at school."

Mrs Davey said that on the day his arrest Timothy went to

see some sights by car with two Turks, two Austrians, and an American. "According to Tim, a police car suddenly forced them to stop. The boot of the car was opened up and this cannabis was apparently in the back," Mrs Davey said. "The Austrians and Timothy were arrested, and so was a Frenchman in the car following them. For some reason the police let the Turks and the American go, and they did not impound the car."

Timothy was taken to the foreign nationals section of the Sagamirilar Cezairi prison in Istanbul, and is being held in a cell there. Christopher Atcherly was arrested on the same day as he was walking through a park, and is being held in the same prison. "I went to the British Consulate and they advised me to get out of Turkey as soon as I could for the sake of the other children. The police impounded our van but the consulate booked first class rail fares for my family. I owe them £193 for that. They took our passports and issued us with temporary travel documents," Mrs Davey said.

"I understand that Tim is being regularly visited by someone from the consulate and by a local British representative of Release. There seems to be a lot of British people being held in Turkey on drugs charges. Tim knows nothing about the cannabis. How could he smuggle it when he couldn't even lift it? The maximum penalty for smuggling drugs into Turkey is 30 years' imprisonment. In his last letter to his mother Timothy wrote: 'They say I'll only get five years because of my age, and then I stand a chance of being

released after 23 months."

He wrote that he would appreciate money to buy extra food as he was living on the prison diet of bean soup, rice and brown bread. "They gave me a haircut that would make a skinhead bow down to me."

Mrs Davey's second marriage ended in divorce four years ago and she lived on supplementary benefits until leaving for India.

"Chris had been round the world twice before, and he worked hard to make enough money for the journey," she said. "We did so many wonderful things and saw places that foreigners normally never reach."

Friends have so far raised about £180 for Timothy mainly through collections taken at pop concerts. The family is living in Ladbroke Grove, Notting Hill Gate, London.

Lord's computer put to Test

By our own Reporter

ALL THAT stuff about willow on leather, dappled sunlight, new-mown grass, the haze of gentle rain, the hum of the stands—all quite unnecessary. Cricket is about scores and scorebooks and long memories. The rest is the romantic self-indulgence of cricket writers.

Anyone who doubts that should watch the last day of play in the England-Australia Test at Lord's today. At tea, yesterday, England needed to pull in 493 to win, and had eight hours to do it. No Test side has ever managed to do that in all Wisden, as an awed voice points out from behind the scoreboard. It had MCC officials jumping up and down in excitement.

Not cricket, of course. Better than cricket. The

game is being played on a Century 200 computer linked to a visual display unit—that is, a screen—in the haughty hall over Lord's Tavern. There has been a business machines exhibition at the ground. The National Cash Register Company provided the cricket, and stole the show with it even though there was not a pair of white flannels in sight.

The sides were chosen from the best players from each country who have played in Test matches in this country since the First World War. Six of the English players and one Australian thus turn out to be dead. Their performances were programmed into the computer after much statistical work with the form book. It took three months. The match is being played

simultaneously at Lord's and in Sydney. There is a random element built in; but not so random that there was any danger of play ending in a thunderstorm on the 11th day. And not so random that there is any chance of different results in London and Sydney even though the game is being played twice on separate computers. The NCR man dries up a bit when explaining how that comes about.

No one really minds, though. The scoreboard is the thing. Don Bradman won the toss, and elected to bat. Arthur Morris chalked up 116 overnight, and took it to a useful 142 before Maurice Tate howled him.

Verity (remember Verity, between the wars?) was going great guns. Always

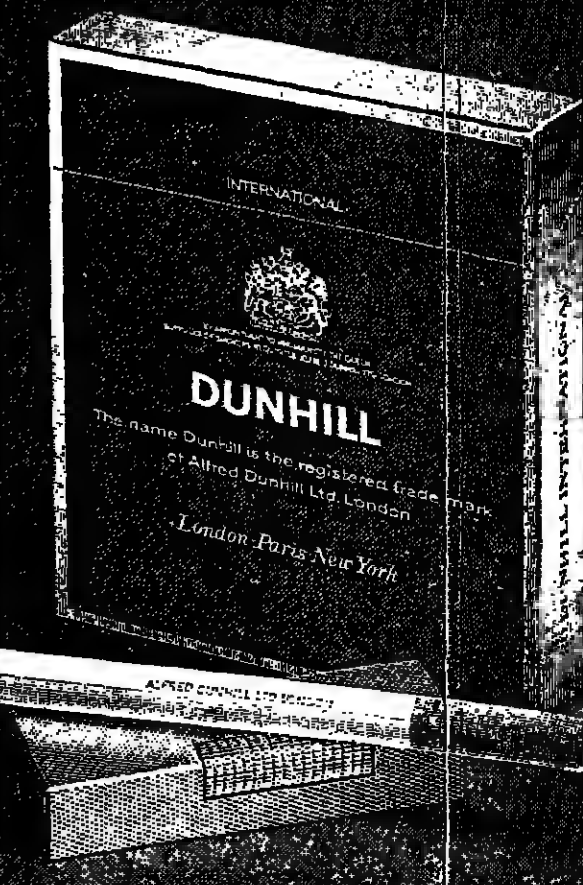
was one of the really great spinners. But Harold Larwood was having the daylights knocked out of him. Great heavens, the man practically invented the bouncer.

Great catches? Well, yes, but not that you would notice. A catch comes up on the screen as a white dot that travels in a straight line from a number (the batsman) to a letter (the fielder).

At close of play, England were 131 for 2. The first innings left Australia with 321 to England's 266, and Australia's second innings ended yesterday at a magnificent 437.

So Australia is running away with the game. But there's talk around the bar that the wicket is programmed to favour spinners on the last day. There'll be the usual deadly hush in the close tonight.

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Yugoslav right to self-determination granted by Brezhnev

From JONATHAN STEELE: Belgrade, September 23

Mr Brezhnev publicly acknowledged today that Yugoslavia is entitled to organise its social life in the way it sees fit without external interference. Speaking at a meeting of workers in a factory near here on the second day of his Yugoslav visit Mr Brezhnev repeated his call for closer links between the Yugoslav and Soviet Communist parties. Several times he urged collaboration between the two and exchange of party delegations and he invited workers to come to Moscow and Leningrad to see the Soviet model of socialism in action.

With massive diplomatic understatement Mr Brezhnev declared that "it is no secret that everything that constitutes specific features of the present organisation of Yugoslavia's social life does not seem acceptable to the Soviet Communists."

But his audience cheered — and the Yugoslav public at large must share the feeling — when Mr Brezhnev gave the assurance that the whole country has been seeking that, as he put it, "the choice of concrete forms of organisation of social life is an internal affair of each Communist Party, each people."

"We are against... some body imposing one's concrete methods of development on others," he added.

He also stressed that while there were differences between Soviet and Yugoslav conceptions of socialism they shared common principles. Close party links have been a consistent theme of his visit, so far although President Tito has pointedly confined his comments to better relations between the Yugoslav and Soviet peoples and States.

The two leaders earlier in the day spent 3½ hours together in talks and they were leaving this evening for more talks tomorrow at a hunting lodge near Belgrade.

But today's speech was less dramatic than Mr Brezhnev's toast at a banquet last night. He then denied the existence of a doctrine of "limited sovereignty" for Socialist countries and said that the rumours of Soviet armies allegedly preparing to march on the Balkans were "slandorous inventions."

Although the Soviet party leader has made previous denials of the so-called "Brezhnev doctrine" his reference to it in Belgrade is meant to calm Yugoslav worries. But suspicions here have not been allayed.

The "doctrine" by which Russia reserves the right to intervene to save the system in another Communist country was framed in 1968 to justify the invasion of Czechoslovakia.

Diplomatic sources said the repudiation meant little beyond a rejection of the title. But the time and place of his toast will assure Yugoslavs that they lie outside the scope of the doctrine and have nothing to fear from Russia.

At last night's dinner President Tito showed that he could be quite as tough as his guest. He stressed Yugoslavia's policy of independence and non-alignment. He reminded Mr Brezhnev that relations between their countries must be based on the Belgrade Declaration (signed when Mr Khrushchev came here in 1955) which stipulates mutual respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and non-interference in internal affairs.

President Tito also mentioned the recently signed Berlin agreement and stressed that this new spirit of détente cannot be limited to one part of Europe. He said peace and stability in the Balkans were essential to the continuation of détente in Europe, and this point is perhaps the main one which the Yugoslavs will seek to impress on Mr Brezhnev.

Fresh Nixon term could transform Supreme Court

From RICHARD SCOTT: Washington, September 23

The resignation of Justice John Harlan from the United States Supreme Court — announced from the White House today — means that President Nixon must fill two judicial vacancies. Justice Hugo Black resigned last week.

Justice Harlan is 72. He has been in Bethesda Naval Hospital since August and his condition is believed to be serious.

Justice Black, who is 85, has been in the same hospital for weeks. His condition has seriously deteriorated since he suffered a stroke on Monday. He has been placed on the "critical" list, and today the prognosis was considered "poor."

Of the other Justices, Associate Justice William Douglas has had a pacemaker in his heart for three years. But his health is good, and his early retirement is not expected. Like Justice Harlan he is 72.

Justice Thurgood Marshall, at 63 the Court's youngest member, and its only black, has twice been in hospital in 18 months. Again, however, there is no real expectation of an early retirement. But if President Nixon wins a second term he could transform the Court's composition.

As it is, Mr Nixon has appointed two conservative members of the nine-man court — Chief Justice Warren Burger and Associate Justice John Blackmun. He is now debating whom to nominate.

Justice Black, from Alabama, was the only Southerner on the Court. It is considered almost inevitable that Mr Nixon, who has sworn to have a Southern conservative or strict constructionist appointed, will seize this opportunity to try again. But his humiliating experience in the Hayworth and Carswell nominations, both rejected by Congress, will make him tread warily.

The White House had let it be known that Mr Nixon was considering at least seven candidates for the Black vacancy. Senators McGovern and Bayh, Democratic candidates for the Presidency, have

sent him a recommendation to name a woman, and a list of candidates. It is not known if Mr Nixon is studying this list.

The name most strongly canvassed is the Republican Representative Richard Poff, who has represented a Virginia constituency for 20 years. Already some controversy has arisen over him. He practised only briefly before entering Congress. Few would claim that he is likely to add lustre to the Court or bring to it outstanding talent. On the other hand he would not merit the criticism of mediocrity which plagued Judge Harold Carswell's nomination. He is respected and liked in the House.

The controversy is based on his lamentable legislative record in civil rights. He has voted against every civil rights bill in the past two decades. However, there has been indication that he holds racist views. Indeed two civil rights champions, Emmanuel Celler (Dem, New York) and William McCulloch (Rep, Ohio) have written to President Nixon supporting Poff's nomination.

Objective observers seem inclined to give Mr Poff the benefit of the doubt on his civil rights record, and to admit the possibility that no one could adopt a less conservative position while continuing to represent a conservative Southern constituency.

But for President Nixon, Mr Poff has special qualifications beyond that of conservatism. He headed the 1968 Republican task force on crime. Law and order and crime became the major plank in Mr Nixon's winning election campaign, and he based his position on crime on the report of Mr Poff's task force.

If Mr Poff is named and if Congress approves, the Court's swing to the Right in the past three years will become even more pronounced. Since Supreme Court Justices are appointed for life, it may be the last time that the Court's composition will be the political complexion with which he has stamped the nation's highest court.



Medina resigns after acquittal

CAPTAIN Ernest Medina, with his wife after his acquittal on all charges of involvement in the massacre of civilians at My Lai. He is to resign his commission.

The 35-year-old officer said he had no other choice since after a jury of five officers had found him not guilty of killing a Vietnamese woman, not guilty of involuntary manslaughter of 100 Vietnamese civilians, and of two charges of assault against a prisoner. Medina's acquittal leaves Lieutenant William Calley as the only soldier convicted for the massacre.

Twenty-five officers and men were charged, 12 with participating in the killings, 12 with covering up the atrocities, and one with both. Of these only five have been tried, four acquitted, and charges against all the others have been dismissed.

One other officer, Colonel Oram Henderson, a former commander of the 11th Infantry Brigade, is on trial at Fort Meade, Maryland, charged with covering up and lying about the incident.

Lord Goodman, who returned from Rhodesia on Wednesday, is to report his findings to Sir Alec Douglas-Home at the Foreign Office today. The Foreign Secretary leaves tomorrow for the United Nations, where the Rhodesia issue is expected to be the subject of intense discussions, both in the General Assembly and between delegations.

The British Government is expected to come under pressure especially from countries in black Africa to volunteer support for the United Nations. The Rhodesia issue is expected to be the subject of intense discussions, both in the General Assembly and between delegations.

Lord Goodman is expected to tell Sir Alec that he found a great deal more flexibility on the part of Mr Smith and the rebel regime in the latest round of talks. There is still deadlock on the precise formula that will guarantee unimpeded progress to majority rule, but Sir Alec and Lord Goodman are believed to see the outlines of a deal.

One stumbling block might be the commitment of the British Government to see that any new Constitution is acceptable to the people of Rhodesia as a whole. However, Lord Goodman and the Smith regime appear to have reached agreement on how this could be done by means of a travelling commission rather than by any sort of vote.

The feeling in Whitehall is that Sir Alec might well be heard to say that the talks in November, probably a few days after the renewal of the Rhodesia Sanctions Order in the Commons, which has to be completed on or before November 11, the sixteenth anniversary of UDI.

Peter Nievesgaard adds from Salisbury: Before he left, Lord Goodman said no dramatic moves were imminent, and political observers here now

believe that a meeting between Mr Smith and Sir Alec may be held in November. If this is true, both the Conservative and the Rhodesian Front Governments will face their party congresses in the interval.

For Mr Smith, it is likely to be an uncomfortable period. Political observers here have said he is close to a settlement with Britain, yet he will come under considerable pressure from the extreme Right-wing of his party.

The Rhodesian Front's congress is due on October 8 and 9. A number of major resolutions, to be debated in closed session, are not in keeping with either the spirit or the letter of the British five principles for a settlement.

One party branch has tabled that "this congress... urges Government to take immediate steps to reverse the unnecessary influx of Africans into European areas, particularly into urban areas, by (a) restricting further African township development in European areas, (b) ensuring that no further African home ownership takes place in European areas, and (c) establishing within the tribal trust lands, townships serving the European areas, unless excessive distance precludes this."

The Salisbury West constituency has set down two controversial resolutions. One says: "This congress urges the Government to bring about a suitable method of documentation to facilitate the control of Africans flooding into European areas by (a) introducing the pass law or similar legislation, or (b) improving existing legislation and there after to assist local government in every way possible with the implementation of such legislation."

The second resolution criticises Mr Smith's Government for failing to introduce legislation to evict Asians and people of mixed blood from the white suburbs. It says: "In spite of repeated promises and undertakings it is with regret that this congress notes the failure of the Government to introduce the Property Owners (Protection) Bill, and urges the Government to press the draft to Parliament forthwith."

The Dean of Johannesburg, the Very Rev. Gonville French-Beytagh, denied in court at Pretoria today that he had been responsible for a box of subversive pamphlets found in his flat, and added: "Obviously there are people who are out to get me into trouble who did not like what I was doing."

The 59-year-old Dean was spending his eighth day in the witness box in the Supreme Court, where he is charged under the Terrorism Act with conspiracy to overthrow the South African Government by violence.

During the first three days last week the Dean was giving his evidence-in-chief. The last five days have been taken up with his cross-examination by the State Prosecutor, Mr J. H. Liebenberg. The cross-examination has been marked by sharp exchanges between the prosecutor and the Dean, in one of which the Dean complained that the prosecutor was "determined to get me into a knot."

Today the Dean agreed that the documents found in his possession contained revolutionary material, including instruction on how to make Molotov cocktails. But when Mr Liebenberg challenged: "I put you that you must have known what was in the box," he replied: "I shall just have to go on denying."

The Dean repeated, however, that he was not suggesting the

Red herring in shoals from Peking

By JOHN GITTINGS

It is not only the reports of Mao Tse-tung's death which seem to be "greatly exaggerated." Other stories of dire events in China, originating from Paris, Tokyo, and Warsaw from Paris, Tokyo, and Warsaw can hardly be justified on the basis of available evidence. Yet some question mark still surrounds a late cancellation of China's national day celebrations in their usual form.

From Tokyo came the news yesterday that China had at once all leave for her armed forces because of increased tension of the Sino-Soviet border. Unfortunately this story was marred by confusion in the report between the North-western and North-eastern reports that "tension" was supposed to have "increased" as a result of clashes between Chinese fishing boats and Russian soldiers. But the other officer, Colonel Oram Henderson, a former commander of the 11th Infantry Brigade, is on trial at Fort Meade, Maryland, charged with covering up and lying about the incident.

Reports from Warsaw have referred to the "recent" removal of statues and quotations of Chairman Mao in Peking. This is not a new development, nor is it a sign of deliberate de-Maoification. Two months ago, in an interview with American student Premier Chou En-lai explained at some length that Mao himself had decided that the "formalistic" display of his sayings should be "cut down a bit" in China.

It was all right, said Chou, during the Cultural Revolution when Liu Shao-chi still had to be exposed. Now that the Chinese people had become fully aware of the significance of Mao's thoughts there was no need to overdo it. We also know that Mao instructed China's foreign language journals to feature him less prominently at least two years ago.

Another report, that the usual quotation from Chairman Mao had been removed from the New China News Agency's daily bulletin published in London, sent me hotfoot to their office in Chancery Lane, where, on the doorstep next to the Chinese Embassy, I collected the latest copy. True enough, it has no quotation on the first page; but neither, it transpired, had this bulletin featured such a quotation a week ago, or a month ago, or at any time in the past year.

Even if the accuracy of these reports does not inspire confidence could one of them by chance hit on the truth? Certainly the border alarm was not found very plausible. In March, 1969, the outbreak of major fighting on the Sino-Soviet border failed to deter the Chinese from holding their

crucial ninth party congress month later. It hardly seems likely that a mere increase in tension would make them cancel the national day parade.

It is also almost inconceivable that anyone in China should dream of actually "throneing Mao," thus undermining the whole national structure of political stability. It does not however preclude the possibility of some limited factional in-fighting among the leadership. This year has seen strong campaigns against "ultra-leftists," including in high places who are said to have exploited Mao's name for ulterior purposes during the Cultural Revolution. A muted press treatment of Chairman Mao might well be a byproduct of this campaign.

Nor can we rule out the possibility that Chairman Mao's "excellent health" is a diplomatic overstatement. He is only being confined to bed, with being critically ill, to make an appearance on the T'ien An Men Square parade with the Chinese Dragon without his head.

The official explanation, if a new and simplified form of celebration has been devised, the interests of economy, do not entirely convince, although it is in keeping with a general tendency towards less pomp and ceremony. Yet the fact that this explanation has so far been made orally by Foreign Ministry diplomats without being published in China, the suddenness of the change plan suggests that there is more to it than that. Exactly what the "more" is, no one honestly claims to know except the Chinese.

Richard Scott adds from Washington: This year's opening of the UN General Assembly has attracted attention of the world for the first time in many years. The reason is that at last there is some chance that the 20-year-old problem of who should occupy the China seat will be finally settled. The real issue is no longer whether Peking will be voted into the organisation, whether the Chinese Nationalists on Formosa will be voted out. The battle to elect the Nationalists in looks like being a stiff one.

The US has adopted the somewhat illogical position of voting the Nationalists out of the UN is an "important" issue, requiring a two-thirds majority, while voting Peking in is not an important issue, requiring only a simple majority. Yesterday the American delegation formally tabled two resolutions, one calling for the seating of both Peking and Taipei and the other describing the expulsion of Formosa as an "important" issue.

Then sent in reports on him. Mr Jordan said he had thought Jordan was emotionally unstable. He said he believed that he told him "Jordan would have committed suicide. Jordan had a perfectly good commercial brain" but was not particularly intelligent.

The Dean disclosed that he worked for him, had warned him that the police would arrest him on January 20. The Dean was arrested on January 20. Her husband's employer had been visited by the Security Police, who wanted Mrs Webb to stop working for the Dean. Mrs Webb, however, was doing nothing illegal and continued to work for him.

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Brandt hoping for talks on troop cuts

By NORMAN CROSSLAND: Bonn, September 22

Since he returned from the peace talks in Moscow, where he spent 16 days with the Soviet Communist Party leader, Mr. Brezhnev, the West German Chancellor, Herr Brandt, has spent much of his time in Bonn, Germany, in the Western Alliance, and was a certain amount of talk during the preparations for the visit, but now the Chancellor's cards are on the table.

The most important topics of the talks in Moscow were a European security conference and mutual balanced force reductions. Herr Brandt concedes that there is now a real chance that discussions about troop reductions can start on a foreseeable future — long before a security conference takes place. Further, he has the impression that Mr. Brezhnev is ready to accept troop reductions — not a prerogative of the super Powers and that not only troops stationed on foreign soil, but national forces also should be affected.

Many people assumed that a Chancellor's main purpose in accepting the invitation to visit the Soviet Union was to get the Russians to call the East Germans to heel, and to persuade them to be reasonable in intra-German negotiations. The United States ambassador in Bonn, Mr. Rush, said that in spite of the day, he is confident that the difficulties can be overcome, and the completion of the agreement was in the interests of all sides.

As the Soviet Union attaches great importance to the Four Big Powers agreement, it is logical to assume that it will ensure at its next stage, the East-West German negotiations, are satisfactorily concluded. Some progress can therefore surely be expected if Mr. Brezhnev's words have any meaning at all.

For his part Herr Brandt was realistic in his attitude towards East Germany. It was agreed, according to the communiqué on the talks, that the realisation of relations between the two German States, the basis of equality, non-discrimination, and mutual respect for each other's sovereignty "seems today possible," one of the most important steps.

Helsinki nuclear talks adjourned

Helsinki, September 23 — The United States and the Soviet Union today completed a fifth round of the strategic arms limitation talks (SALT) without any comprehensive agreement ready for signing. It was thought that the two Powers might sign an accord not affecting central issues.

Earlier this month reports from Moscow and Washington indicated technical groups, working outside the SALT meeting, had worked out an agreement which would prevent a nuclear confrontation by accident.

The reports said the agreement, which may be signed before the next round starts in Vienna in November, called for consultations rather than negotiations if one of the two Powers fired a nuclear weapon by accident.

BITUARY

Sir E. Whitehead

Sir Edgar Whitehead, who died in a nursing home in Berkshire yesterday, was born in 1906 and was educated at Eton School and Oxford. He went to Southern Rhodesia in 1928 to join his civil service father, but he failed the medical test and became a farm pupil.

He entered politics in 1939 as a member for the Conservative Party. He resigned his seat in 1940 to serve with the Southern Rhodesia forces in West Africa. During 1945 and 1946 he was acting High Commissioner for Southern Rhodesia in London. He wrote a lengthy report outlining a development plan for Southern Rhodesia. He emphasised the need for immigration and industrialisation and his report provided a basis for the development of the country for many years.

He returned to Southern Rhodesia in 1948 and became Minister of Finance and Lands and Telegraphs. He held these posts for seven years, before retiring from public life in 1953 because of failing eyesight. He was knighted for his services in 1954.

His eyesight having improved, he was recalled from retirement in 1957. In 1958, when Garfield Todd was ousted from the leadership of the United Federal Party (Southern Rhodesia division), Sir Edgar became party leader and Prime Minister. During his term of office as Prime Minister he concentrated on the problem of rising unemployment, due to the population explosion, which

From David Hirst, in Beirut

Sadat's Helwan solution

IT IS with obvious satisfaction that the Egyptian newspapers report the social and economic convulsions which are afflicting Israel these days. It is almost as if, in their make-believe world, Egypt has no such problems of its own, or if it does they are no sooner detected than magically solved. The strike of workers at Helwan, the most important industrial complex in the country, has apparently been "solved" with a mixture of carrots and sticks. It was perhaps the most serious challenge Sadat had faced since he became undisputed master of Egypt in May. The workers' demands, which were strictly economic ones, have apparently been largely met. But those blamed for provoking the strike and mishandling it when it arose — the management and the newly elected Helwan representatives of the trade unions and of the Arab Socialist Union — have been drastically purged.

What next? For in spite of the make-believe, Sadat does have problems and in abundance. In fact the respite he earned in May is drawing to a close and his predicament is getting very serious again. It is impossible to separate the internal problems from the great overriding problem of war and peace. The regime lives in constant fear that both will fuse in a sudden upsurge of popular discontent. If the Helwan strike did not provide the trigger, the next strike somewhere else could easily do so.

The coincidence of the first anniversary of Nasser's death and the beginning of the academic year is an awkward one which might well force the regime to the humiliating step

of postponing the opening of the universities.

Sadat is beginning to pay the price of at least partially keeping his promises of reform. The component parts of Egyptian society are beginning to show signs of independent life — and showing it inevitably in a way he finds hard to tolerate.

Among them are the workers. The Egyptian work force is estimated at something over eight millions out of a population of 34 millions. Of these, more than 900,000 are industrial workers. Sixty-two per cent of the work force are illiterate. The minimum monthly wage is seven and a half Egyptian pounds (officially about the same as sterling).

The elections for a new Arab Socialist Union, the mainstay of Ali Sabri's fallen "power centre", were only one of this summer's breathless and still unfinished succession of democratic consultations. The election of a new trade union leadership was another and perhaps more important one. There are 25 principal unions. The electoral process is much the same as for the ASU with, at the apex of the pyramid, the

21-member Executive Council of the Egyptian General Federation of Trade Unions.

The holding of elections at all was an implicit judgment on President Nasser. It was not that, as with the ASU, there had been "deviations" in the last elections — which Nasser had seen but, owing to the battle, had failed to correct — it was that there had simply been no elections at all. This was typical of Nasser's rule.

The workers were organised within an authoritarian system built round the management, the ASU and the trade unions. To the workers, the union leadership was more or less an adjunct of the establishment — largely imposed from above, bureaucratic, remote, and frequently corrupt. Many of the workers' official representatives seemed part of the "new class" of army officers and administrators who were the elite of Nasser's system and who developed instincts quite as acquisitive, if not so officially tolerated, as those of the old bourgeoisie they largely replaced.

There is no doubt that the new trade union leaders are more representative than the

old. They were elected in a freer atmosphere than anything known under Nasser. True, the authorities did interfere and sometimes they succeeded. It was evidently their influence that swayed the balance in favour of the new President, Salah Gharib, who was detained by the Helwan strikers.

But sometimes they did not succeed. In some places workers staged demonstrations on behalf of favourites disqualified from standing. The accountants and agricultural unions chose leaders the regime is known to dislike. Much the same thing had already been happening in elections in professional associations. It has been calculated that on the 21-member administrative boards of the 25 principal unions, 83 per cent are completely new men. Their average age is younger, their educational qualifications higher, and a higher proportion of them are production as opposed to supervisory or administrative workers.

They have clearly made their point. One of the tasks of the new Government which Premier Mahmud Fawzi will form is to raise the minimum wage. This, says Al-Ahram, will raise productivity, which in turn is one of the bases for victory in the battle.

It is not clear what change there has been, if any, in the general political orientation,

but what is fairly certain is that the Egyptian working class, with or without the official leaders, will grow more militant in their own interests, and their militancy at a critical time like this can only contribute to mounting pressure on Sadat.

No voice louder than the battle is the much-used slogan calculated to hold down material expectations in a time of crisis. It has certainly worked quite well. But making sacrifices for a war which never comes, to help a regime frightened of waging one, is not something the workers or anyone else can tolerate for ever.

Task for Egyptian Cabinet

By ANTHONY McDERMOT

The Egyptian Cabinet sworn in this week with the task of introducing social reforms and improving administration is the fourth to be formed by Dr Fawzi since President Sadat succeeded Nasser nearly one year ago. It marks another stage in President Sadat's reforms of political and social institutions.

The Cabinet is smaller, with 29 Ministers compared with 33 in the previous Administration. The major change is the appointment of six presidential advisers: Mohammed Hafiz Ismail, Mohammed Abdel-Salam Al-Zayat, Hassan Mohammed Al-Tubani, Dr Hassan Sabri Al-Khaili, Dr Mohammed Fathallah Al-Khatib, and Lieutenant-General Mohammed Al-Laili Nasif.

Nine of the outgoing Cabinet lost their posts although three became presidential advisers. Of five new Ministers, Dr Murad Ghalib, Ambassador in Moscow for 10 years, is a Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and will strengthen the supervision of Egyptian-Soviet relations.

The Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Interior, War, Industry, Oil and Mineral Wealth, Agriculture, Information and Culture remain in the same hands. The Ministries of Local Administration, Youth Affairs, and Scientific Research have been abolished. There are new Ministries for Maritime Transport and Military Production.



Mercedes-Benz 220 2.2 litre, 4 cylinder, 116 bhp. Top speed over 100 mph.

The more you admire two-litre cars the more you'll appreciate the Mercedes-Benz 220

There are some very good two-litre cars on the road. In this highly competitive sector of the car market, they have to be good.

Mercedes-Benz invites you to judge the 220 against that good standard and find that you really do get more. More endurance, for example. More ability to retain first-class condition so that your initial investment is protected by low depreciation. More in every aspect of total car design...

More Performance

By performance Mercedes-Benz don't just mean 100 mph-plus top speed. They mean performance you can use. What Mercedes emphasises is the supremely relaxed above-average cruising speeds, whatever the condition of the road surface, and the important extra margin of acceleration, if required, at medium overtaking speeds. The Mercedes-Benz 220 4 cylinder 2.2 litre engine develops 116 bhp SAE with a top speed of 104 mph.

If you want more edge to that performance, take a look at the Mercedes-Benz 250 with a 6 cylinder 2.5 litre engine that develops 146 bhp and a top speed of 112 mph.

More Comfort

The designers of the 220 and 250 have achieved the spaciousness of larger Mercedes saloons within a more compact body. Seating is orthopaedically shaped to reduce fatigue. Comfort to Mercedes-Benz is never a matter of ornate trappings but of finely calculated lay-out. You have precise finger-tip control over a machine that responds effortlessly. The car does the work. Not you.

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More Personal Safety

As always, the cost of safety has not daunted Mercedes engineers. No other manufacturer devotes so high a proportion of his turnover to the pursuit of safety. The 220 and 250 combine both

passive and active safety features. Things like individual wheel suspension with anti-dive control, anatomically correct driving position and all-round dual circuit disc-brakes. However, should a collision be unavoidable, the Mercedes-Benz "safety cell" (a rigid passenger compartment with impact-absorbing zones front and rear), anti-burst door locks and impact absorbing steering column all help to reduce the possibility of serious injury.

The 220 and 250 are cars that deserve to be tested and talked over with the experts like any other important investment. Your nearest Mercedes-Benz dealer will be ready to do so. Alternatively, write to the address below for a brochure on the 220 or 250 and other cars in the range.

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Telephone: 01-560 2151.

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Telephone: 01-629 5578



Mercedes-Benz: the end of compromise

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HOME NEWS

Government plan for young unemployed to do social work

By SIMON HOGGART

The Government plans to recruit squads of unemployed young men and women to do social and community work. All will be volunteers, and they will be paid realistic rates for the job they do.

The plan is designed to do something to bring down the level of youth unemployment. Young people without jobs in the area where the scheme operates will be asked if they would like to do the work. If they do they will be given a specific job

Tories to vote on EEC

Our Political Correspondent

The Conservatives will be asked to take a recorded vote on the first day of their annual conference, which opens Brighton on October 13.

Mrs Unity Lister, chairman of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, will preside over the conference, said in London that this was an unusual decision of the local union. The chairman's discretion on whether a recorded vote should be taken, normally such a decision is made at the end of a year. On the Common Market it had been thought wise to advance that a counted vote would be taken.

The party managers have set the date for the afternoon session on October 13 for the vote on the EEC. Never has much time been provided for a vote on any one subject at a conference, although there have, on critical occasions, been sessions of debating time. Sir Douglas-Home, and Mr Ripston, and Mr Maudling will speak for the Government. Mr Heath is expected to speak for the Opposition. The vote will end on October 13.

Resolutions submitted for the conference show that those supporting entry into the EEC outnumbered those opposing by 70 to 1.

So far, no place on the agenda has been provided for debates on Northern Ireland, Rhodesia, the African arms, local government reform, or immigration—all of which are mentioned in resolutions which may be chosen later by ballot. Fifty resolutions on law and order have been submitted, with 48 in each of the last two years. Mr Maudling, Home Secretary, will reply to the debate. Most of the resolutions call for stricter measures against offenders. But North Bats is concerned at the possibility that a combination of hair, unconventional dress, youth, may come to be regarded as suspicious, and as a ground for police action.

The Federation of Conservative Students wants cannabis to be legalised, and recommends it be made available under Government control, subject to heavy taxation. The question of whether the Minister will allow a free vote in the Commons on EEC is being raised again in the debate. Not only because of the demand of the Liberal Party at Scarborough, but by the expectation of the EEC Labour MPs, resented this week, that at least 40—some say 60—Labour would vote with the Government in favour of entry, in the face of the decision of the party's national executive and TUC, and the possibility they might be expelled from the Parliamentary Labour Party for doing so.

Mr Roy Jenkins and Mr George Thomson are to speak the Labour Committee for the vote at a national rally of 10,000 in favour of entry to be held in Edinburgh today.

RADIO PLANS

A guide to music, talks and plays to be broadcast between October and December

THE SELLING OF THE COMMON MARKET

PETER OPPENHEIMER

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BILL WILLIAMSON

A sociologist's look at the place of the leek in northern society

AUTUMN BOOKS

The Listener

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مكثان النحل

Peter Harvey looks at a fox hunting feud

PROOF that fox cubs were captured and reared for hunting might be made public, the League Against Cruel Sports said yesterday. The Master of the Belvoir Hunt, Mr John King, denied the League's allegations when he appeared before a special inquiry of the Masters of Foxhounds Association in London.

The investigation was ordered after an article in the League's newspaper alleged that three cubs had been picked up by a huntsman and reared. Mr King said yesterday that a farmer had called in the huntsman because the cubs had been run over. The cubs were taken to kennels and destroyed.

Mr King described the League's behaviour as "pretty poor, all in all. We were asked to take the cubs to May. In June, some people came to my home while I was over-

Fox cub charge denied

seas. They told my huntsman they were from a child's wild life park and were collecting animals. They asked my chap for anything, two fox cubs, for instance, that might be kicking about.

"He explained what had happened, that the cubs were destroyed, and these people went away. Apart from what happened later—these wild stories—it is rather off when

you go about pretending things to get into a chap's house."

Mr King said the League had not got in touch with him. "If they had I might also have told them that not only would it be almost impossible to hand rear a four-week-old fox cub, but what would you have when it was grown? You would have a domesticated pet. And who would hunt that? Who could?"

The League's chairman, Mr Raymond Rowley, said the Foxhounds Association "made it impossible for us to attend the meeting—that is why we were not represented, not because we have no case."

The Foxhounds Association said that the league had been asked to attend the inquiry and substantiate its claims against the Belvoir. Five dates had been offered, but the league had failed to respond.

More children lighting up

Smoking is increasing among schoolchildren, particularly girls, a conference was told yesterday.

Dr Charles Fletcher, consultant physician at Hammer-smith hospital, called for anti-smoking propaganda to be directed at teacher training colleges. "I would like to have the £100,000 now being spent on television advertising for a blitz on smoking, campaign on school children in one area," he said at the second World Conference on Smoking and Health in London.

A conference working party called for more research to find

out about teenage values and how to remove glamour from smoking.

BBC and ITV chiefs are considering ways to combat cigarette advertisements designed to catch the cameras at televised sports meetings.

At the smoking conference, the BBC was accused of infringing its charter, and the ITA of avoiding the ban on TV cigarette advertisements by televising tobacco firm sponsored events.

The BBC chairman, Lord Hill, told the conference that the problem had "assumed unusual proportions" recently. Mr Brian Young, ITA director-

general, said it, too, was investigating the problem.

School leavers with money in their pockets from their first job are warned in a book published today that drug pushers see them as their most likely source of increased business. Dr Norman Imah, medical director of All Saints Hospital, Birmingham, says there may be 100,000 children in Britain who have experimented with or have been acquainted with the use of drugs.

The book "The Choice is Yours," is intended for use in schools to help teenagers combat and understand the drugs.

Race officers fear threat to autonomy

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

The Association of Community Relations Officers, which represents 58 of the 84 officers working towards better community relations in different cities, yesterday criticised plans by the Community Relations Commission to employ them directly and allocate them to specific places.

At present they are chosen by local community relations committees, but financed largely by the commission's Government grant.

On the eve of the commission's conference, the association yesterday issued a statement saying: "Community relations has to struggle for its own independence for, financed as it is partly by Central Government and partly by local authority grants, there is always the grave danger that someone will seek to threaten its independence."

The association therefore viewed the movement towards centralised employment of CROs as "alien to its basic philosophy and repugnant to its resultant strategy."

The association claimed that the emphasis on centralisation, masked the basic problems of the CRO. These were an absence of consultative machinery,

an inadequately equipped development department to ensure proper level of support to new councils, and the lack of clearly understood criteria for the allocation of grant-aid.

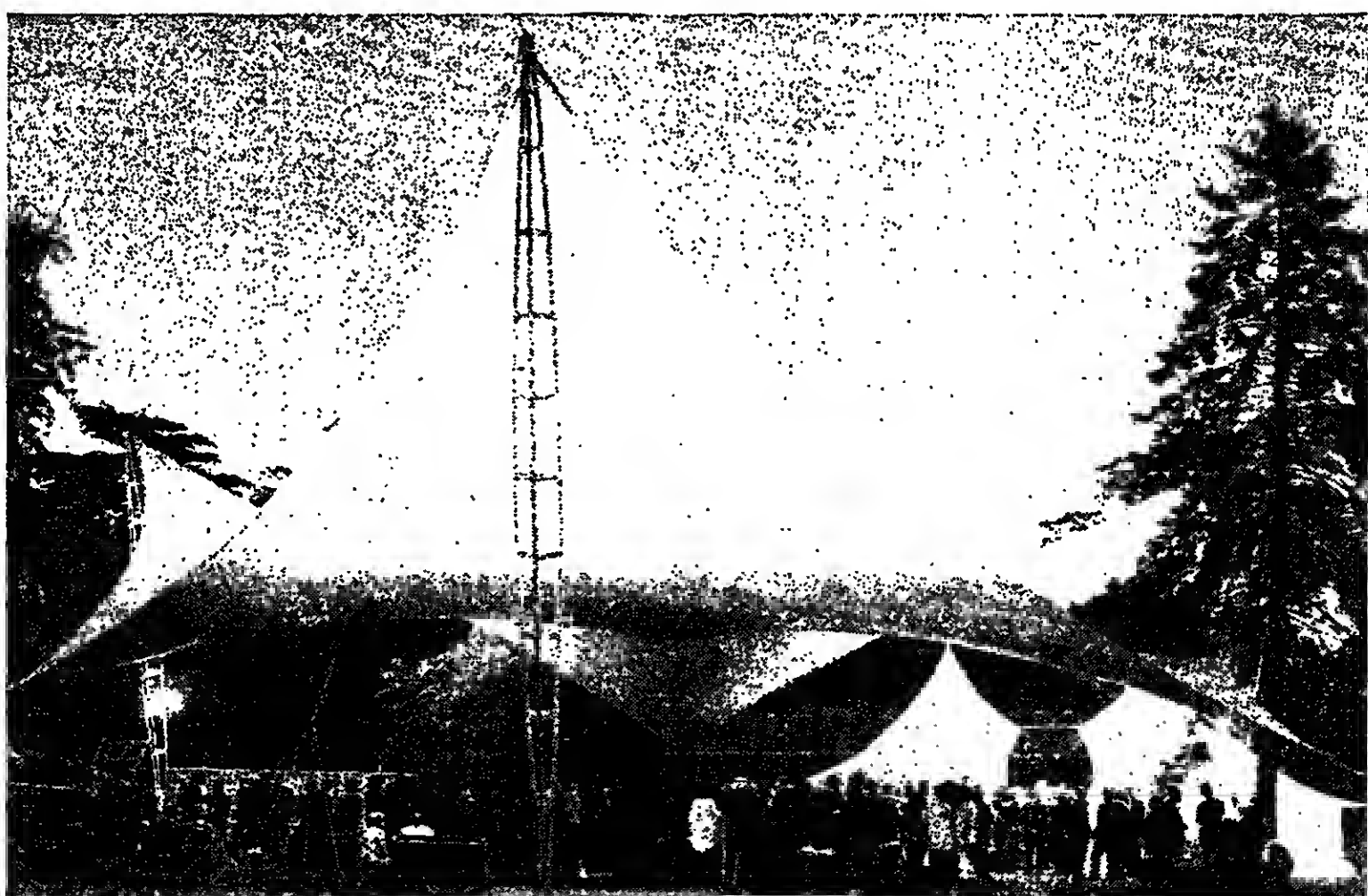
At a press conference yesterday, Mr Jak Raksi, CRO for Hackney, chairman of the association, claimed that some councils were already looking for alternative sources for funds. The commission had said that grants would be withdrawn if the councils did not agree to centralised employment.

Price rise for Austin

The prices of the Austin 1100/1300 range of cars went up by between £12 and £13 yesterday after an announcement on Wednesday by British Leyland of changes in design. An 1100 four-door saloon will now cost £375 and a 1300 GT £1,034.

The interior of the cars has been redesigned with new seats, a new dashboard, face level ventilation, and a small padded steering wheel.

Hoechst keeps thinking ahead



The Trevira high tenacity net-sail in the grounds of the Bishop's Palace at Wells on the occasion of the 1971 RIBA Conference

Hoechst research beats the weather

Outdoor events are very much affected by the caprices of the weather. Rain-sodden sites, with the bedraggled participants about as enthusiastic as fifth formers during a history lesson, have hardly ever given rise to memorable occasions. Not infrequently, the event has had to be cancelled altogether, hardly to the delight of the organisers. In collaboration with famous architects, Hoechst research has now developed a temporary cover that renders outdoor activities independent of the weather. Sports arenas, for example, holding up to 100,000 spectators, or swimming pools, can be protected in this way. The flexible cover is a coated fabric in Trevira high tenacity, a material of extreme strength. Rot-proof and tear-resistant and yet light-permeable and so flexible that it can be erected quickly in

bad weather. A new form of architecture has arrived. Trevira high tenacity takes sports arenas under its wings in all weathers to the benefit of all sports lovers.

Ahead through systems thinking

Trevira high tenacity for large scale covers — the result of Hoechst knowledge and experience in many fields: man-made fibres where Hoechst has an immense amount of know-how in production and processing; plastics where Hoechst is equally expert in manufacturing and laminating techniques. Thus, Hoechst is the forward-looking partner of architects and the building industry. Systems thinking is the Hoechst strategy. Research, development

and product experience in many areas are concentrated on the solution of specific problems. Interdisciplinary thinking, systems analysis and systems technique to bring success. To keep thinking ahead — to solve the problems of today and tomorrow — Hoechst employs more than 10,300 people in research and development with a research investment this year of more than £60 million.

Hoechst in Britain

Hoechst UK Ltd is an independent company within the international Hoechst group. Its British staff know their country, its problems, its people; and they realise where Hoechst know-how can inject into Britain's economy the experience gained by the parent company during more than a century in chemistry. In pharmaceuticals, for example, where Lasix — the modern diuretic — has revolutionised therapy. In the textile industry, where Trevira polyester fibre has brought an entirely new concept to fashion. And where membrane structures from Trevira high tenacity fabric have at long last rendered outdoor events independent of the weather. Or in dyestuffs where experiments are proceeding to make the grass look greener in football stadiums and other sports arenas. Whether your problems are in plastics or paint raw materials, in dyestuffs or pigments, in fibres or pharmaceuticals, in agro-chemicals or films, Hoechst UK can help you promptly and efficiently.

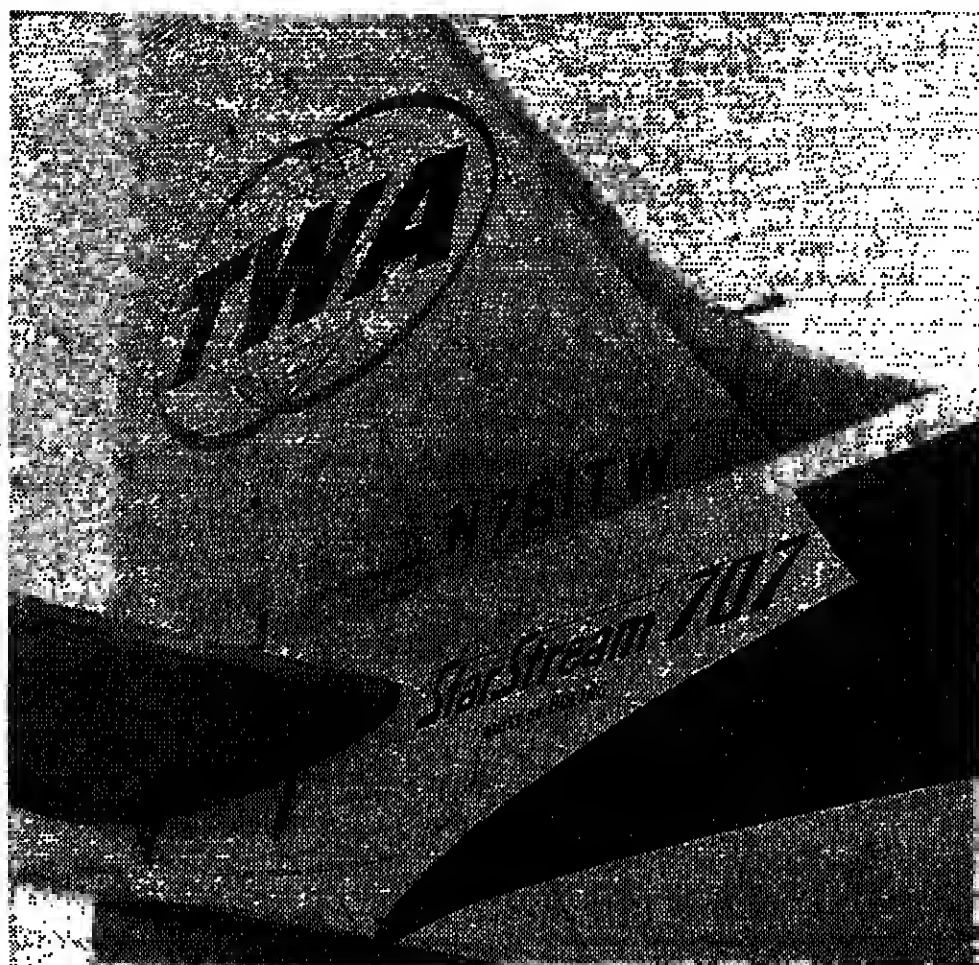


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Anthony Tucker, Science Correspondent, reveals hidden wealth A tip worth weight in gold

Britain's colliery tips may be her greatest mineral resource. Analysis of colliery shales from the major coal-producing areas has revealed between 25 per cent and 30 per cent of aluminium silicates and 10 per cent of iron oxide.

According to studies that were partially revealed at the recent meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science by Mr D. L. Levi, formerly at the Institute of Physics Fulmer Research Institute and now a consultant chemical engineer in Oxford, chemical extraction techniques exist which could provide aluminium at about half its present cost, plus a whole range of valuable by-products including potash.

Although world reserves of aluminium are enormous, present smelting processes demand large amounts of power and involve high capital costs. Potash is also abundant, but—as indicated by the decision to mine in the Yorkshire National Park—is often located in areas where development is undesirable.

It follows that quite apart from the potential benefits of wholly independent production of low cost aluminium and potash, the integration of chemical extraction with coal mining and the absorption of spoil heaps appears to be highly attractive industrially, socially, and environmentally.

One of the oddities about the established aluminium industry in the West is its total dependence on the technique based on bauxite. This is not true of Russia, where chemical extractions from shales is a standard practice.

One major advantage of utilising coal spoil heaps such as those in Britain is that a large proportion of the energy required for metal extraction is contained in the starting material. About 20 per cent of current colliery spoil consists of

non-recoverable coal, and older spoil heaps contain considerably more. While the power costs of aluminium production by existing methods are exceptionally high in Britain and Western Europe, the use of waste coal provides the cheapest possible source of energy.

Existing colliery output provides potential aluminium and potash production that is much greater than present consumption, and the accumulated spoil heaps amount to several thousand million tons of neglected reserves.

The National Coal Board, which ironically has bolstered its market by agreements with the aluminium industry to provide coal for Scottish smelters at an absurdly low price, appears to be under political and industrial pressure to do the wrong things. Since the potential annual value of chemical extraction from spoil heaps exceeds that of coal sales, the NCB is—as Mr Levi points out—either mining the wrong material, or in the wrong business, or both.

The NCB itself, while claiming to have looked at the possibility of metal extractions from shales from time to time, and to find it "uneconomic," is poorly supported in extraction expenditure. But on a laboratory scale, the apparently severe technical problems of aluminium extraction which deterred the NCB have been overcome.

The somewhat embarrassing situation has arisen in which a modest investment in a pilot plant would probably demonstrate that the present separate and narrow activities of the coal and aluminium industries are not in the national interest. Since successive Governments have constrained the NCB while encouraging large foreign investments in new aluminium production, the resolution of the situation may require courage and flexibility.

Of course, there is always a

convenient loophole during the early stages of technical development because laboratory processes are by no means certain to scale up satisfactorily. Yet the possibility of turning what amounts to a national environmental burden into a source of mineral wealth is at least worth full investigation.

The annual shale output of the NCB—roughly 40 million tons—contains aluminium which in its refined state and at current world prices is worth well over £1,000 millions. The value of potash and possibly iron lifts this annual gross potential to around £1,500 millions.

As an indication of the potential scale of economic impact this is frightening, but perhaps even more disturbing are the possible effects of increasingly cheaper aluminium on the stability of other metal industries.

It appears predictable, for example, that chemical extraction could result in aluminium which is cheaper on a volume basis than mild steel. In that event, the pattern of usage of the two metals would change dramatically for the relationship of their consumption is largely determined by price.

It will take at least a decade for the recent large capital investments in traditional aluminium production capacity to be written off, but there is an urgent need to reshape industry on a basis which makes the best use of internally available resources.

It may be argued that aluminium is so abundant that there will never be a shortage. Yet even on the basis of Britain's myopic policy of buying in the cheapest market, rather than securing long-term options on essential minerals, a cheaper and domestic source of aluminium is worth developing. Since the metal can in many circumstances replace copper—one of the minerals for which the world will soon be desperately hungry—there is an even stronger case for looking at the possibility of cheap domestic extraction.

Quite apart from implicit re-valuation of the NCB, there is a possibility of eliminating the spoil heaps which disfigure and occasionally endanger colliery regions. All this suggests there could be a case for a complete change of national policy.

Local prisons 'suffer neglect'

By HAROLD JACKSON

A call for open prisons is being made in city centres today by Dr Richard Sparks, of the Cambridge Institute of Criminology. In a research study into the crisis in local prisons, Dr Sparks says that overcrowding is likely to get worse, and that there is a danger of prison conditions reverting to the worst aspects of the Victorian age.

Dr Sparks describes the population of local prisons as men "distinguished chiefly by their inability to obtain any better conditions in which to be punished: they have been inside too often and for crimes too petty. Very few are dangerous but they are poor candidates for 'treatment' of any kind now offered, and their prospects of reform are considered bleak.

They are the Lumpen proletariat of the whole English penal system. Most of the men in local prisons are from the area and have committed their crimes in their home territory. The isolated rural location of many open prisons removes both prisoners and prison staff from the communities in which they normally live, reinforcing the prisoners' feeling of rejection by the community, and making it hard to recruit staff.

"Why should there not be prisons consisting more or less of ordinary buildings—resembling, say a hostel, or the YMCA—in which prisoners deemed suitable for open conditions lived while working in the community, either in prison service workshops or for commercial employers?"

The nearness of such prisons to the areas from which their inmates come, Dr Sparks argues, would help to maintain the family and other social ties the men have. "It might also gradually promote a much less rejecting attitude on the part of the general community."

Surprise hotel surplus forecast

BY OUR TRAVEL EDITOR

The present scale of hotel building in Britain could mean a surplus of accommodation—even in Central London—within the next two years.

In a surprise recommendation against any official grading policy for British hotels, the British Tourist Authority suggests that this fact might well exert sufficient commercial pressure to influence hotel prices and standards to the benefit of consumers and make grading unnecessary.

The authority also feels that any move towards price control would be "a disaster." "The hotel industry is a vigorous competitive trade and any attempt to control prices either directly or by backdoor means, would be fatal both to its prosperity and to the future of the tourist trade in Britain."

At the same time, the authority recommends that hotels and guest houses should provide the consumer, before booking, with exact information as to what accommodation will cost, and with complete and consistent guidance as to the standard of the hotel or establishment in question.

The hotel industry has volunteered to do this and the authority is in favour of accepting this offer—with the reservation that the voluntary scheme were not to succeed reasonably speedily, it would recommend statutory action.

But "fortified by the knowledge that for the first time the major sections of the industry, hotels, caterers, and brewers, will be working in unison," it sees no reason why the voluntary scheme should not work perfectly adequately.

In tossing the registration ball fairly back into the hotel industry's court, the authority admits that money is a major consideration: in the absence of accurate information on likely cost, it is not as yet convinced that benefit of statutory registration would necessarily provide justification.

When so much public funds have been made available to assist hotel investment, a voluntary scheme set up by the hotel industry might well serve to fill the gap in available information about the type and number of hotels and other establishments offering tourist accommodation, without additional major expenditure.

Halcyon Days indeed

"Come and give us a hand," said Court Line, "to build a hotel for Halcyon Holidays on a sun-drenched island in the glorious Caribbean." We didn't argue. We took off our jackets and went to work.

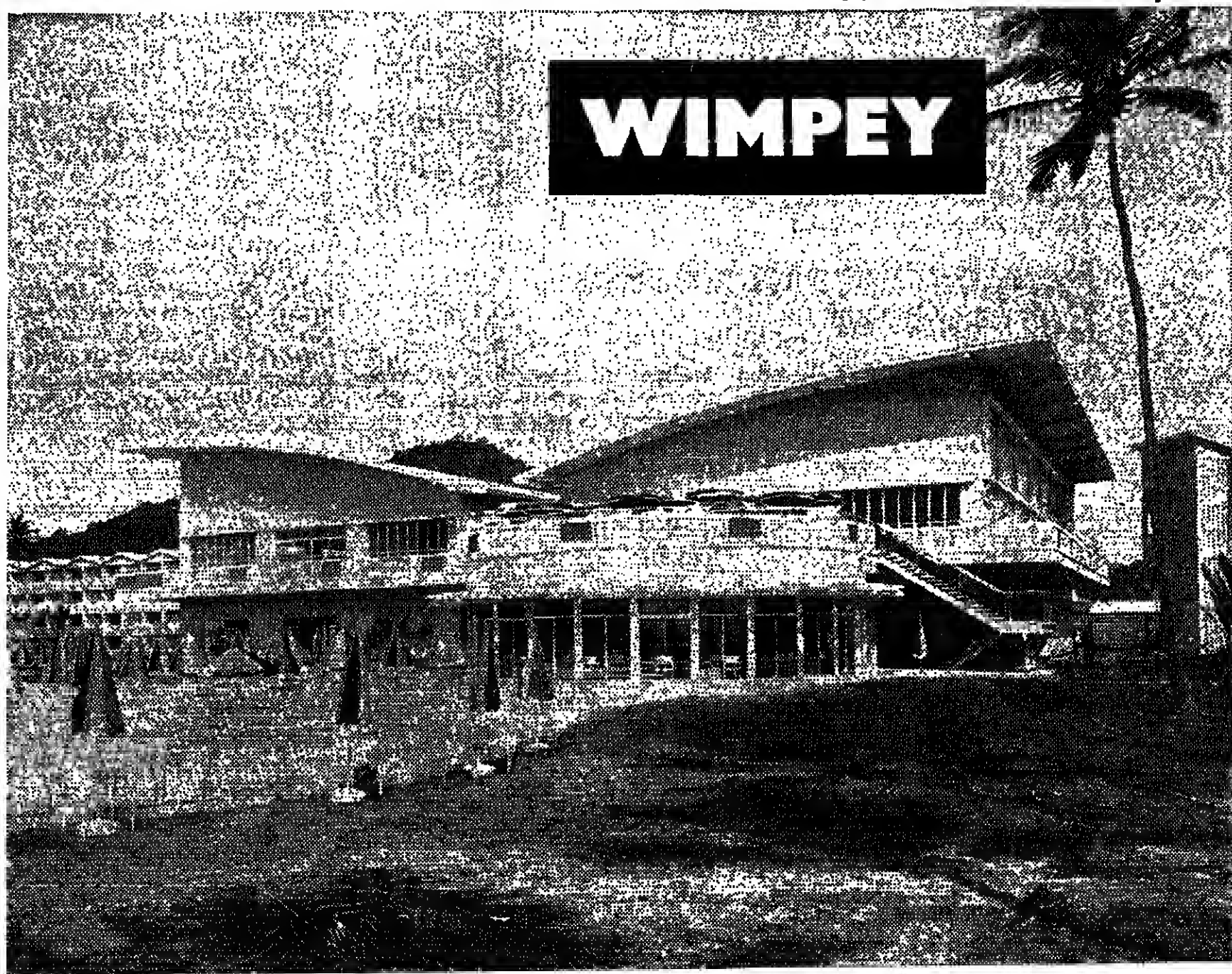
Result: the Halcyon Days Hotel on St. Lucia. A 256-bedroom scheme which opened in May 1971 to serve the luxury tourist trade.

Wimpey's world-wide experience and talent for organisation blended very smoothly with local manpower and resources.

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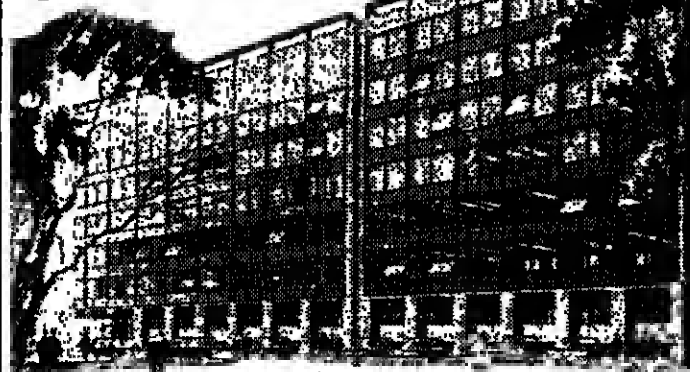
And we had one consoling thought as we finally packed up and left St. Lucia. Our know-how is in demand all over the Caribbean. The Halcyon Days is our fourth hotel there!

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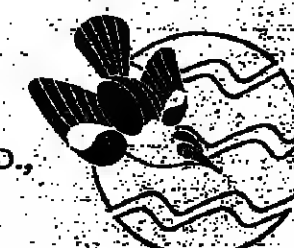
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Artists at work... children at Montpellier Play Group finishing their paintings for an exhibition of arts and crafts by the children of Camden at Swiss Cottage Library. Picture by E. Hamilton-West

Problem of teenage alcoholics

By Peter Harvey

WENDY was 13 when she began to drink heavily. Two days after her fifteenth birthday she was in an alcoholics' ward, a victim of the country's "most neglected health problem."

This extreme but not isolated example underlines the grim and growing problem of teenage alcoholism in Britain. It is a problem so serious that Alcoholics Anonymous yesterday held a press conference to "let everyone know just what is going on."

There are an estimated 100,000 alcoholics in the country today, and they are costing between £100 millions and £400 millions in lost production each year.

"But it is the human problem that is the worst," Douglas, AA's general secretary—the organisation uses first names only—told reporters gathered in a small

room above the Punch Tavern in Fleet Street, London, "and that problem is now affecting more and more young people and schoolchildren."

"We estimate—and our figures cannot be precise—that about 4 per cent of the alcoholics in Britain are in their teens or very early twenties," another AA official said. "Five years ago we just did not have this problem among people so young. Today, AA has six groups specialising in people aged under 25, and the numbers are growing rapidly."

The changing pattern of alcoholism is reflected in AA's 5,000 members. Fifteen years ago the average age of a person seeking the group's aid was in the late forties. Today the average AA member is in his or her mid-

thirties. The increasing size of the problem can also be measured by figures released by AA yesterday: in 1960 there were 60 regional groups in Britain. Today there are 450.

One of the major factors in the growth of alcoholism among teenagers is the fact that "young people now have much more money than before. They can afford to drink, as much as they want, at an earlier age."

But AA also believes that the change in public attitudes towards alcoholism in recent years—"most people now recognise it for what it is, an illness"—is encouraging people to seek help at an earlier age. "Whatever the truth, and we believe it is probably a combination of these two factors, there is

one rock-hard certainty: alcoholics are getting younger, and their numbers are increasing."

Stressing that alcoholism is the "third most prevalent killer disease," AA said that "in terms of both research and treatment it is also the nation's most neglected health problem."

AA's charter forbids the association from involvement in any "controversial" issue, but it is obvious that it would like to see more specialist treatment centres for alcoholics. A number of hospitals already have such wards, but the growth of the problem is far outstripping the remedial measures.

Higher entry standard 'hits working-class'

By RICHARD BOURNE, Education Correspondent

Entry standards to higher education might be pushed up too far in the 1970s, in order to keep down the demand for university places, Mr Michael Brock, a leading Oxford University administrator, said at the Headmasters' Conference in Oxford yesterday.

"Our university system is one of the most selective in the world: during the 1970s, it is extremely unlikely to grow less, and may grow still more selective," he said.

If entrance standards were forced up to keep down demand for places, Britain would be in danger of losing the lead over the rest of Western Europe in higher education, Mr Brock said.

New selective measures might be introduced. It was far from certain that 835,000 full-time higher education places would be financed by the Government in 1981, as required by the Education Planning Paper Number Two.

On the projection map, 24.5 per cent of 18-year-olds would have two or more "A" levels in that year. Even if the Government did provide 335 places, in spite of the James Committee, the colleges of education remained simply teacher training institutions throughout the 1970s, the effect of the general rise in qualifications would be to give nearly all intending teachers two "A" levels, on a par with university students.

A glance at one of the Robbins report tables showed how disastrous it would be—especially for working-class applicants—to raise higher education entry standards by a shortage of places.

Mr Brock's claim that "more has meant better" for the universities, and that less could be socially dangerous, follows Lord Boyle's recent warning

that pressures on university entry may grow sharper than for other parts of higher education.

Mr Brock, who is vice-president of Wolfson College, Oxford, said there had been no decline in the standard of sixth form work, while drop-out rates in the universities had fallen, and there had been a rising proportion of first and seconds in the Oxford degree lists over the past decade.

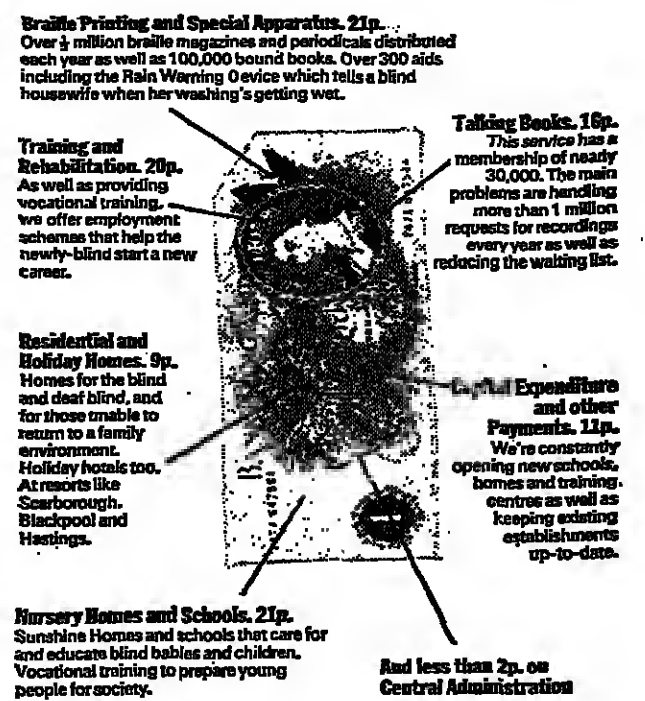
Mr Brock maintains that the defence of academic standards is not the same as defending premature specialisation in the schools, or an over-weighted syllabus, or particular forms of school organisation.

But Mr Brock's optimistic assessment of improving standards was not accepted by all his listeners. "Oxford is backing in the last glow of the British grammar school tradition before it is finally butchered by politically devious or panic-stricken conservative councils," Mr Tom Horwath, High Master of St Paul's, said.

Mr David Newsome, head of Christ's Hospital, Horsham, said that syllabus reform at Cambridge University concealed the object of making subjects harder, as with mathematics and engineering, or easier, as with theology. He said it was "bureaucratic lunacy" to abolish the pass-fail concept at A level.

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Wilson 'opted out of secrets case'

By our own Reporter

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Norman Skelhorn, pressed for the Fleet Street secrets trial for which the taxpayer paid an estimated £60,000 costs, Mr Richard Crossman said in a signed editorial to the New Statesman yesterday.

Mr Crossman, the editor of the "New Statesman" and a former Cabinet Minister, said the Foreign Office "finally advised against prosecution after the 'Sunday Telegraph' published a British Intelligence report critical of Federal German military preparedness the day Biafra collapsed."

Wilson "was mainly concerned to avoid the charge of official interference and so completely opted out."

The Attorney-General, Sir Elwyn Jones, felt bound to concede to the insistence of the DPP. "So this was not a political prosecution—far less a media—but an application of a absurd law on which the wyes insisted and which the politicians were too timid and establishment-minded to stop."

Mr Crossman was commenting on a book by Mr Jonathan Aitken, one of the four defendants and not guilty of charges under the Official Secrets Act.

It is a mistake to assume that

Teachers want protection

By our Education Correspondent

The National Union of Teachers wants a further meeting with Mrs Thatcher to press for the enforcement of schools' discipline regulations. It complains that her reply to its survey of school working conditions turned a blind eye to the non-enforcement of her own regulations.

Mr Edward Britton, general secretary of the NUT, has expressed surprise in a letter to the Secretary for Education that she is not using the regulations to ensure that teachers and children in school have the same protection that employees get from the Shops and Offices Act.

"By placing all the emphasis in your letter on the resources you are allocating to the improvement and replacement of those primary schools housed in the oldest and worst premises you appear to ignore the problem of unsatisfactory working conditions with those schools. It is the union's contention, however, that the problem is much more widespread than that, and this is why it has asked you to carry out your own survey of conditions in schools," he writes. The union executive does not accept that an inquiry would lead to any diversion of resources from the primary reorganisation campaign.

The union regrets that the primary campaign has had such total priority that Mrs Thatcher is allocating no money at all for the improvement or replacement of old secondary schools in 1972-3 and 1973-4.

£3,000 bail

NCCL wants Act to be limited to spying

By our own Reporter

The National Council for Civil Liberties called yesterday for the Official Secrets Act "limited to espionage and spying."

The council, in its evidence on 2 of the Official Secrets Bill, argues that the Official Secrets Acts are unnecessary in the sweeping protection they offer the State. "By their imprecision and ill-defined nature they provide a curtain of secrecy for the Government."

The evidence quotes Lord Cross's comment in 1965:

"The Acts can lead to the protection of inefficiency and malpractice, stifle the needful exposure of public scandals, and prevent the remedying of individual injustice."

The NCCL has also delivered an open letter to civil liberties in Northern Ireland to Mr Heath. It recommends the release of all detainees under the Special Powers Acts. If any criminal evidence has been collected against the detainees, they should be rearrested and charged in the normal way.

A man charged with dishonestly handling a stolen police truncheon was committed for trial on £3,000 bail at the Central Criminal Court when he appeared on remand at Old Street Court yesterday.

Lambert Francis Jacobs (38), public house manager, of Brierly Street, Bethnal Green, London, was alleged to have committed the offence at the Plough and Harrow public house, Leytonstone High Road, Leytonstone, on or before August 24.

More power for councils

By JOHN ARDILL, Regional Affairs Correspondent

The local government reform bill which Mr Peter Walker, secretary for the Environment, introduced in November, will give more responsibility to district councils than originally envisaged in the Government's White Paper.

Libraries will almost certainly be controlled by district councils and it is expected that housing regulations, weights and measures, and possibly local plan-making may be given to the districts as well. They are not likely to win control of highways.

Mr Walker told the annual conference of the Association of Municipal Corporations, which ended at Southampton yesterday, that the Bill would show that consultations with local

the massive new counties to run their services.

The reform of local government should include provision for grassroots councils elected by small communities. In a memorandum sent to Mr Peter Walker, the Environment Secretary, and Sir Keith Joseph, the Social Services Secretary, the Association for Neighbourhood Councils says such bodies could act as champions for the consumers of public services.

The new councils would have a constituency of about 10,000 and should have representatives on such bodies as the proposed Community Health Councils, the consumer consultative bodies for the nationalised industries, and local planning committees.

Caribbean Mystery. Chapter 2. Miss Marple makes comparisons.

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And that means an overall increase in Braille production. Not only in books but essential material of every kind. Thus, computers are helping the blind not only in translating Braille—but in producing Braille print out. (An interesting aspect of this is the employment of blind operators and programmers in computer installations.)

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Sackings row stops work on Concorde

By our own Reporters

Work on the first pre-production Concorde due to make its first flight next month, remained at a halt yesterday in the dispute over threatened redundancies at the British Aircraft Corporation factory at Filton near Bristol.

Workers allowed the aircraft 01 to be towed back into its hangar to prevent damage, but a spokesman for the redundancy committee of the unions said: "Once it's back in its hangar, there'll be no work done until the matter is sorted out."

The aircraft, the nearest to completion at the factory, was blacked out Tuesday after foremen had towed it across the airfield on Monday while an overtime ban was in force. It also had some overtime worked on it on Tuesday.

Mr Lew Gray, convenor of the redundancy committee, said yesterday that it would remain blacked out until the company withdrew its warnings to certain men that they would be made redundant. They wanted to discuss where redundancies, if any, should fall. "We would possibly accept some if they could prove their case. But we would want some say in the way that this is handled."

Concorde workers agreed at the meeting of 4,000 on Tuesday to end sudden work stoppages and demonstrations in return for an agreement by the BAC management to negotiate on 460 redundancies. Hard bargaining between management and unions has been taking place almost continually ever since.

The meeting agreed to continue an overtime ban and blacking of work by sanction-breakers until the talks reached a "satisfactory outcome."

Mr Gray has put the management under consistent pressure to talk since the 80 production and 380 start redundancies at Filton and Fairford, where Concorde is being built, were announced three weeks ago. According to the BAC chairman, Mr Geoffrey Knight, they were necessary because Concorde's design development was passing its peak and build-up of Concorde production was still relatively slow.

By Wednesday there had been two half-day stoppages and three meetings, and Monday's roll-out of Concorde 01, the first pre-production aircraft, was four days late.

Mr Gray is full-time convenor

of the joint shop stewards committee and showed great relish for sparring with the management. He said: "We hadn't seen the management for a long time. It was like coming back after a row with the missus."

He and 16 union colleagues kept Mr Jack Jefferies, the BAC deputy chief executive, and six other executives round the conference table for seven hours when they met on Monday at Engineers' House, Bristol, the headquarters of the Engineering Employers' Federation, under the chairmanship of Mr John West, the federation director.

There will be a similar meeting on Wednesday, according to a formula drafted by Mr West and read by Mr Gray at the meeting, "domestic discussions will take place continually."

They have already begun. Mr Gray and colleagues put a six-point draft agreement to the management before the meeting. It laid down procedure to be followed before the announcement of redundancies.

Mr Gray said that the management had agreed not to recruit new labour and to retire those above retiring age. Other demands to be worked out this week are consultation before the announcement of redundancies, laying-off of all sub-contract workers, and the retention of the machine shop training bay and the banning of overtime.

There are about 2,000 guided weapons workers among the 8,000 workers at Filton and Fairford. Some of them attended the meeting. The 460 redundancies are part of a total of 1,200 redundancies at BAC's five commercial aircraft divisions.

Mr Harry Wright, the district secretary of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, told the men: "The unemployment figures will rise if we do not make a stand. We are relying on you to discipline yourselves. From their inflexible position of last Monday week, we have got the management to negotiate."

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Legal aid for home buyers?

A legal journal suggests that because of the increasing prices of houses, less-well-off purchasers should get help in meeting the extra legal costs.

The current issue of the "New Law Journal" proposes either a form of contributory legal aid or the inclusion of legal charges in the mortgage loan.

"The load would not be lessened quantitatively, but it would at least be spread," the journal says.

The leading article points out that as house prices have risen, house purchasers' immediate commitments—the deposits and legal costs—have become more onerous.

Relatively speaking, they had affected most severely those with the smallest resources, specially young people and the poorer sections of the community.

Child care group urges unity

A coordinated special care service for babies to reduce the mortality rate and handicaps is suggested in a report published by the Department of Health and Social Security.

It says that the service, organised so that hospital, general practitioner, and local health authorities, all play a full part, should be able to anticipate and prevent situations which might be damaging to the baby. The present mortality rate of 19,000 a year in England and Wales accounted for 80 per cent of loss of infant life from the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy to the end of the first year of life.

The Expert Group on Special Care for Babies, which compiled the report, says the service should also provide facilities for specialised observation and treatment, and provide teaching and training for professional staff and follow-up research.

Mr Charles Spoye, the president of the Residential Child Care Association, said yesterday that child care could rapidly sink "in a turbulent sea of new management and administration." Child care may be forgotten as services for the mentally ill, the handicapped, and the elderly were improved, he said.

ENTERTAINMENTS GUIDE

ADRIAN (836 7611). Evs. 7.30. Mat. 5.00. Sat. 3.00. Sun. 2.00. THE MUSIC OF A LIFETIME

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ALDWYCH (836 7611). Evs. 7.30. Mat. 5.00.

THE TRIPARTITE talks next week between Mr Heath and the Prime Ministers of Ulster and the Republic of Ireland "may be the last opportunity to save Northern Ireland from civil war," Mr Callaghan, Shadow Home Secretary, said in the resumed Commons debate on Ulster. "We desperately want the talks to succeed," he said.

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The electric environment.

Hugo Cole reviews the new publication of Verdi's correspondence

But Shakespeare and Verdi, both high-pressure workers in the entertainment industry of their day, had little enough time to live private lives, let alone to write contemplative, philosophical letters about the state of art or their own emotions. If Shakespeare had left letters, they would have been concerned with the current prices of second best beds, or with the salary allowances due to actors pro-

Charles Osborne provides brief notes on the people involved, but no supporting documents, so that we never find out, for instance, how the angry dispute over the contract for "Luigia Miller" ended. But, in spite of discontinuities, these letters tell us a lot about Verdi and his environment. The surface of Italian operatic life in the nineteenth century was so picturesque that we tend to remember only the extravaganzas — the patriotic shouts

In the theatre, he showed the same concern for detail, the same determination to have his own way. His ferocious handling of inept impresarios had much in common with his handling of his unfortunate farm foreman: "I should like to know whether my orders are going to be obeyed... you will never learn how to give orders or take them... the garden is to be closed; no one may enter, and no one from the house may leave except the coachman, for a short time to exercise the horses. If anyone goes out, he can stay out for ever."

Verdi talked in much the same way

Verdi, loved to keep everything in his own hands, and had little use for producers; in 1856 he was looking back nostalgically to the days "when stage production was unheard of—no hissing thing." Conductors were also dispensable: "you will find virtually the same qualities and defects in all the conductors likely to be engaged," he wrote before Aida was first produced; with singers, always find a conductor." With singers, it was another matter. Verdi had to have the singers be needed, not necessarily those with the finest voices (he repeatedly stressed that his Lady Macbeth was an actress first, a singer second); nor did he insist on their looking right—the first Violetta in "Traviata" was of enormous girth. But to get the right singers was the prime condition, on which depended all else.

Verdi returned again and again to the idea of a "King Lear" opera. He completed a detailed synopsis (one of the most interesting things in the private

The capacity for minding too much about everything was one aspect of his genius; that aspect defined by Dylis Thomas as "an infinite capacity for aching pains." None of this explained the miracle of the operas; but without this uncomfortable complex of opposing forces—extreme sensibility, extreme obstinacy, absolute artistic honesty and keen business sense; need to collaborate, and inability to leave moderately well alone; the greatest operas might have remained, like the "Nerone" of his librettist Boito, noble unrealisable projects.

Arts extra : page 11

100

WOMAN'S GUARDIAN

the tip of Berg's Lulu • mucking in at the kitchen stove

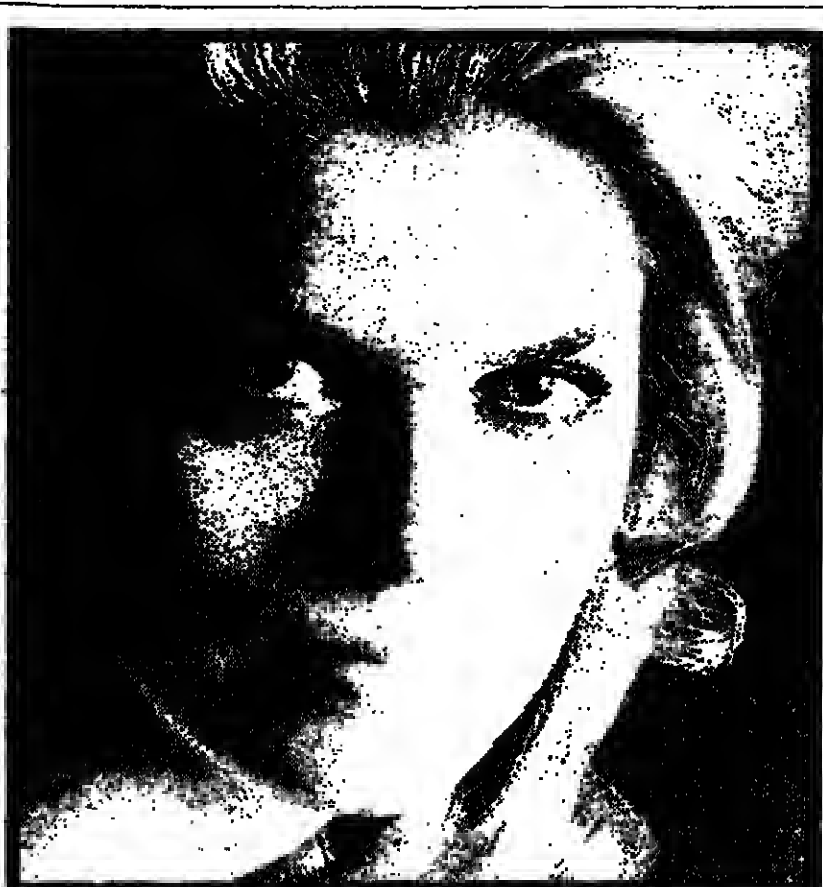
THE WELSH NATIONAL OPERA is staging the first British production of Alban Berg's "Lulu." The title rôle is notoriously difficult, and demands three solid hours on stage and so many costume changes that one soprano who sang it had to have a tent built in the wings to enable her to make the changes at whirlwind speed. Yet the latest Lulu is played by a girl of 24 who only made her debut two years ago—and opera singers, like race-horses, are normally brought on with extreme slowness and care. Carole Farley, from Moscow, Iowa, is singing for the first time in this country. She looks more like a glossy magazine model than an opera singer: she is far distant from the full-blown Brünnhilde image. Indeed she was chosen at 16 to be Miss Junior America, which brought her nationwide publicity, enviable prizes, and an unwelcome supply of Coca-Cola which she hated and gave to the neighbors.

It was an understatement, said Miss Farley, to describe Lulu as an incredibly taxing and demanding rôle for someone of her age. After five weeks of strenuous rehearsal she had just given her first performance in Cardiff and she said it was so difficult it came into the category of a risk. "There was no other opera, she said, that was more difficult both vocally and dramatically, nor one that was more of a challenge. "The high notes are so nearly impossible that I'm sure that had Alban Berg lived he would have had to revise his score considerably. Even for a coloratura it would be taxing and since I am a lyric soprano it imposes extreme demands on me to sing such high and repeatedly high music, in maybe the longest rôle in the whole repertoire of opera."

"During the three hours she is on stage Lulu does everything you can imagine from running and leaping to making love. She has to inspire, every one on stage and make the whole opera happen, which if you meet the challenge is the marvellous reward for all the hard work and effort you must put into it."

Miss Farley thought it was possible that since Berg wrote "Lulu" women's voices might have become lower, or alternatively that he wrote it with someone special in mind who happened to have that range. Herself, she happens to have those notes "but not all the time in such quantities. I just have to make the best of it that I can but, of course, it makes me nervous that I might damage my voice. I have to be careful and safeguard myself in certain ways. In rehearsals I never sing it full out, all the high notes. Never until the performance. In fact, because I was afraid if I gave it every thing I might have nothing left on the night. Now I have turned down an offer to do six performances of "Lulu" in Switzerland because it would be dangerous to sing this opera more than every once in a while. Most of the year I do the standard repertoire because of these unfortunate demands modern opera makes on the voice."

She knew the rôle was a risk, she



Wandering voice

Catherine Stott reports on one of the most exacting tests in opera, Carole Farley's trial by 'Lulu'

said, but felt a risk was due in her career; although knowing that an opera singer's voice doesn't mature until she is about 30, she is anxious not to rush the development any further. "The acting is something that is always there but the voice must have such care taken of it. You are only given one voice and once it is damaged there is nothing you can do about it and you are finished before you have really begun."

If your hopes and dreams and livelihood are all centred upon the smooth functioning of a part of your body, surely there must be a danger of submitting to a kind of enforced hypochondria which can end by ruling your life? "This happens all too often," she said. "I haven't reached that point yet but there are some singers who literally run if they hear

someone sneeze. Although this is extreme, it is understandable because for a businessman to catch a cold is nothing; for an opera singer it is murder. Just riding in an air-conditioned car can be deadly to your next performance. I take massive doses of Vitamin C to guard against treacherous colds and I talk as little as possible to anyone on the day of a performance. Opera requires a great deal of strength, particularly 'Lulu'. So I swim and exercise and even rode to rehhearsals on a bike in Cardiff."

Cardiff. Wasn't that a bad climate for a voice to be exposed to? "It was very damaging. It rained every day for a month. In New York where I had just come from, it had been a hundred degrees every day. Changes in temperature affect the voice dreadfully, so I started with a terrible cold.

Then I flew back in the middle to Chicago to give two performances of "Die Fledermaus" and arrived to a temperature of ninety-five in a thick wool trouser suit. . . . From music school Miss Farley won a Fulbright which afforded her a year's study in Munich. Then she was asked by the Metropolitan Opera to go back to New York to sing her debut there. In Britten's "Les Illuminations." She was very young to receive such an invitation, but the Met's judgment was rewarded by the "New York Times" verdict that this was "a fascinating—at times overwhelming—young singer who obviously has an important future before her."

Miss Farley is married to the young South American composer-conductor, Jose Serebrier, whom she met in what she described as "the best possible place—Carnegie Hall." At their wedding at the Plaza Hotel, New York, they and their friends together performed the Bach Wedding Cantata with Farley singing and Serebrier conducting a small chamber orchestra. Working out their schedules to give them as much time together as possible is as intricate as compiling a commuter train timetable. Conductors are booked three years in advance, singers usually two. Miss Farley tries to plan her engagements around Serebrier's. . . . "If he is conducting the LSO and they need a soprano as a soloist he uses me . . . or sometimes if I'm singing in an opera and it is convenient that he also conducts, we work it that way. We usually contrive somehow not to be apart because it doesn't suit us." She said it would be a strain to be married to someone outside the profession because it would be very difficult to share in something as encompassing as a musical career is, for someone who is not involved in it."

Serebrier is very much her mentor as well as her husband, she said. She is guided and advised by him and having a conductor in the house has made her, she is sure, a better musician. She thought every opera singer could do with one.

"It means that I can follow anything that any conductor does and that I am much more aware of the orchestra. You see, many singers learn their rôles with a pianist and at the first rehearsal they hear what the orchestra sounds like for the first time. I have the advantage of knowing the orchestral repertoire very thoroughly as well as the operatic repertoire through going to all my husband's performances and many others too, which is quite invaluable."

She will sing in five more performances of "Lulu" in Britain between now and the end of November, and 10 in Cologne in the spring. But she will choose her next rôles with care. "I would like to do 'Butterfly' but I realise I can't because it is too heavy for me and I'm still too young for it. So I shall shy away from singing heavily and tend towards things like 'Traviata' which do not require the same vocal weight. Now that I think the risk has paid off I think I shall be wise and go easy on myself."

When the wasps come to lunch

weekend cookery by Harold Wilshaw

I HAVE JUST SPENT an all-too-short long weekend in my beloved Wiltshire, revisiting friends, and staying in a large and beautiful Georgian house with a huge garden. The really remarkable thing was how the whole establishment operated like clockwork without hired help.

This was largely thanks to the efforts of my hostess, her daughter and son, but also in some measure because the guests had well-developed social consciences. Everybody mucked in happily but this did not mean that you were lumbered with the jobs you were thought best at. I did not do all the cooking, and the women did not make all the beds and do all the washing up. But everybody did the nearest work which needed doing from shopping in Devizes to mowing what seemed like a mile of lawn. We all came together at cork-popping time before meals, or for expeditions to the Owl for more supplies. And there was plenty of time for long walks lying in the sun, and for some of the most vicious croquet I have ever played. Of course, we were very lucky with the weather, and we were able to take lunch every day with the wasps in the garden.

I only mention all this as many readers living in the country may be afraid of asking too many people down on the grounds of not being able to cope. It is only necessary to choose your guests well.

Here are some of the dishes we had, included mostly for their simplicity, but each with a little touch which made them deliciously different.

Cinnamon plum tart: Make a rich short crust with 8 oz flour, 5 oz fat (half butter-half margarine), 1 egg yolk; 1 level tablespoon vanilla sugar. Roll it thin and line 1 or 2 tart tins with it. Prick the bottoms, weight with dried peas on rounds of foil and bake blind at gas 5, 275 deg F for 12 minutes. Stone and quarter ripe plums and arrange them on the tarts. Turn the oven up to gas 7, 425 deg F. Sprinkle the plums generously with sugar well punctuated with cinnamon and bake quickly for another 15 minutes. This recipe is from my hostess.

Orange apple fool: A contribution from my hostess's daughter. Wash and halve 1½ apples and poach them soft in a little water. Rub them through a sieve or vegetable mill. Sweeten the resultant puree with sugar to taste, and flavour it with the grated rind of an orange. Beat in 2 egg yolks and when the mixture has been chilled the stiffly beaten egg-whites are folded in.

Within reason the longer this pud-

ding is made before eating the better, as the orange gets a chance to permeate. This lily can be gilded by poaching the apples in the juice of 2-3 oranges, and then proceeding as before. Baked back of green bacon: This was a joint effort, as we decided to have a cut and come again joint for Sunday lunch as omeubers were unknown—there could have been between 10-14 for the meal. A huge hock of bacon was soaked overnight and it was then found that there was nothing to boil it in. So it was seasoned with crushed black peppercorns and double wrapped in foil with a handful of fresh bay leaves. It was given an hour at gas 6, 400 deg F and about 1 hour at gas 3. The bacon, which was very good, we had with jacket potatoes which were barely out of the ground before they were in the oven, and turnips with chives.

Boiled turnips with chives: There happened because the chives were there. Cut the turnips into batons and boil them briskly in salt water. Drain them when they are still al dente, and toss them in butter with a double handful of fresh chipped chives.

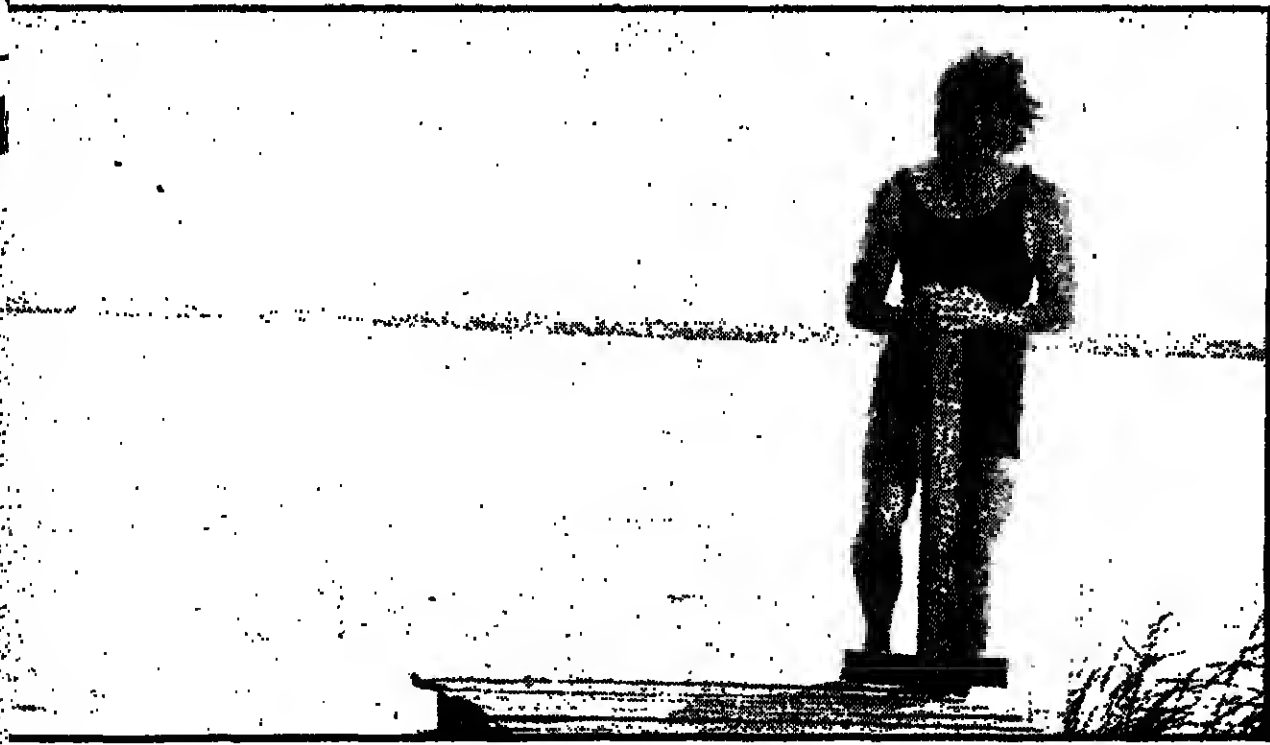
Home-made wholemeal bread: When I found myself faced with one of my old love-babies—an Aga-cooker—I thought I would make a few batches of bread, which always turns out well on an Aga. It is most satisfying to make bread and I merely followed, as usual, the recipe on the bag of Allinson's Wholemeal flour. The only slight differences I indulge in are that I brush over the loaves before baking with a very strong brine to harden the crusts, and I double the amount of fat recommended. I do this last to increase the keeping life of the bread, although last weekend its keeping qualities were not tested very seriously.

Crab in Pastry: Needless to say this was my own show-off recipe. There was some justification for it as I had bought a couple of freshly-boiled Weymouth crabs and was not sure how far they would have to stretch. And with a crab salad you are limited. So I dressed the crabs and mixed the meat with 6 finely chopped spring onions, green and all, and a teaspoon of rubbed fennel. I made ½ pint of thick white sauce and blended in 2 tablespoons cream, 2 heaped teaspoons tomato puree, a squeeze of lemon, salt and pepper. The crab mixture was covered with the sauce, and encased in thin puff pastry like a giant turnover. I made airholes, brushed it with beaten egg, and baked it for 35 minutes at gas 6, 400 degrees F. It was served with a sauce comprising a tin of prawn soup, thickened with a little roux, and flavoured up with sherry, cream, Angostura bitters and Worcestershire sauce.

RTS EXTRA: new films reviewed by Derek Malcolm

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Alan Bates in "The Go-Between"

Alpha for Joe, beta for Bo

MAIN AWARD at Cannes, praise ady heaped upon praise — it didn't take much further recommendation to make people want to see Joseph Losey's *The Go-Between* (C2) and various provincial res). But just to drum the good's home, it is certainly a remarkable film, the most remarkable to be in London at the moment with possible exception of Milos Forman's enchanting "Taking Off." I can, in fact, think of no British film for so long with such sense behind its ability, so perfectly in tune with

I'm sure it has already been said, Losey and Harold Pinter seem on evidence to be the perfect help-mates, the couple of one being held in place rather than checked by the homy of the other. L. P. Hartley's extraordinarily moving and presentist film has been brought to the screen in a way that doesn't just faithfully state but also illuminates freshly, the means of another medium are to achieve ends one feels would perfectly acceptable to so dious a writer.

Those who know the book well need no fear of seeing the film. It is quite the same in structure but it is informed by precisely the same it which is almost all that matters. This has been managed in spite of the fact that, on the face of it, is a little go-between.

his is perhaps putting it too mildly, a less subtly handled film, the id certainly has seemed wildly fast. Miss Christie, expertly acted, transcends this feeling better than Mr Bates, who does, spite of his skill, bring a kind of pseudo-Lawrentian fervour to his part simply pulls it out of shape. Per-

fect casting, and perfect playing othar- wise from Dominic Guard as Leo (this is a heart-breaking sensation of childhood experience), from Margaret Leighton and Michael Gough as Marian's formidable parents and from Edward Fox as Trimmingham.

A precisely structured script, only very occasionally dropping into those meaningless meanings now known as Pinterisms, helps enormously, especially at the end where the significance of the whole tale is unearthed through Michael Redgrave's delicate cameo of the grown Leo, now an empty shell because of a distant experience he cannot exorcise. Without these few minutes, the film would still have transcended most of those one has admired by this highly original director. With them, one can justly call it his masterpiece.

What goes on before is simply the physical (and intellectual) shaping of a story by dint of first the creation and then the manipulation of atmosphere; the hot, hazy summer days, Brandham Hall itself, beautifully poised like its inmates to take advantage of a fortunate station; the cricket match in which attitudes are so carefully defined, teas on the lawn, the bathing party. Is Michel Legrand's score too much psstiche to take? Ona sounds like a motoring correspondent complaining about ashtrays in a desperate attempt to prove he is no manufacturer's mouthpiece.

After which, you should also visit Bo Widerberg's *The Ballad of Joe Hill* at the Academy, another film made with loving care—perhaps a little too much for comfort. This is the well-chronicle story of Joseph Hillstrom, a Swedish immigrant to New York at the turn of the century who became a leader of the Wobblies (the Industrial Workers of the World) at a time in American history where this was tantamount to biting rather than kissing the flag.

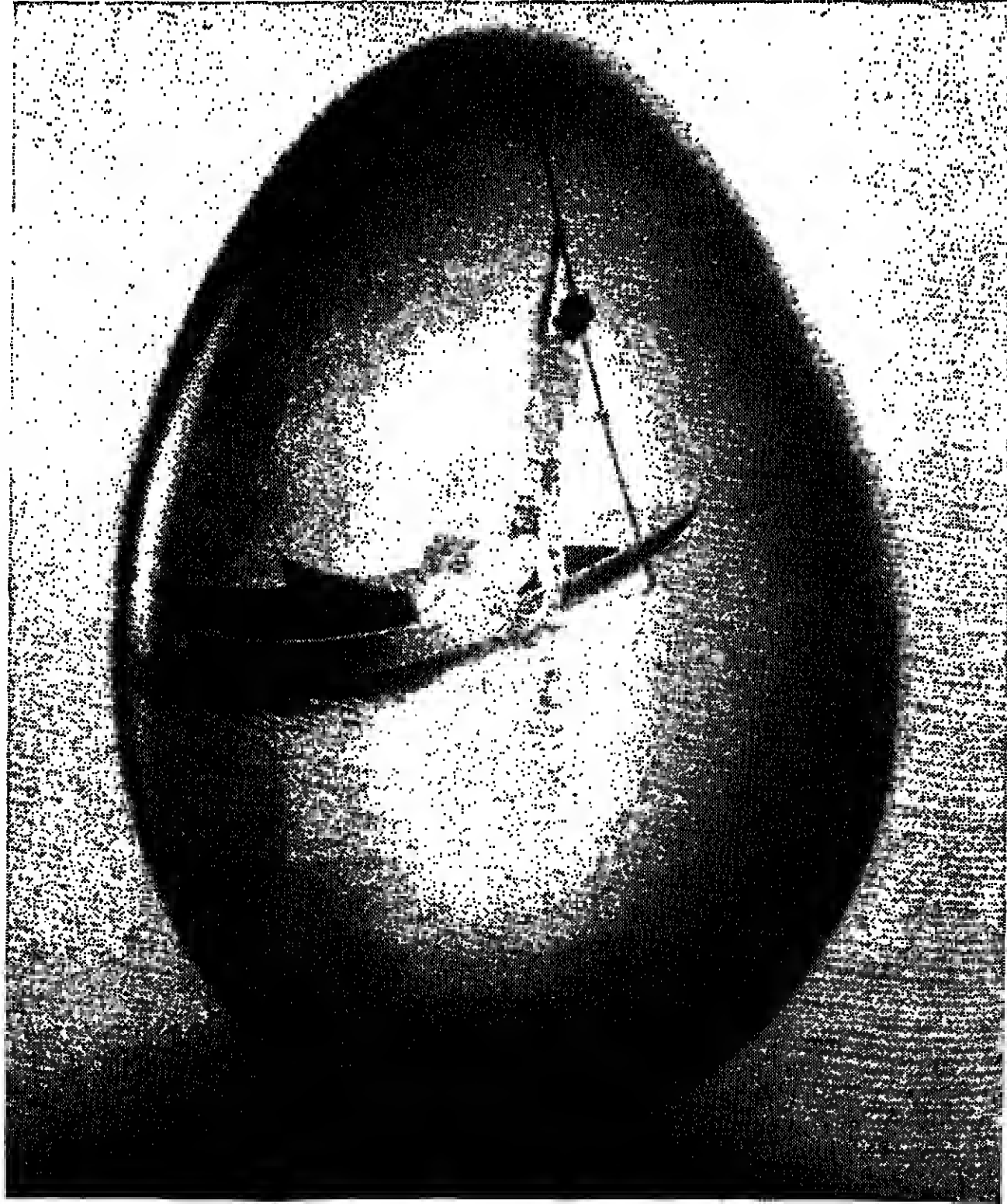
Hill was shot in Utah Penitentiary after a dubious murder charge has

been brought against him. But his dead body became more potent even than his live one. As the first Transatlantic workers' martyr, he is somewhat shadowy figure and remains so in the film—a little too handsome, a little too noble to be true. Thommy Berggren, an old Widerberg associate, plays him well but leaves only an outline behind in the mind.

This is what is wrong with the movie, since heroes must be seen to be mortal flesh nowadays or we don't quite know what to make of them. And Joe, the halldas suggest, had some wars along with the rest of us, notably his penchant for leaving women with child but without cash.

The America of the period is summoned up almost as well as the England of "The Go-Between," a land of incalculable plenty which was also one of incalculable misery for a good percentage of its newer settlers. I kept on thinking during Widerberg's odyssey that things haven't much changed now, in spite of Joe Hill's songs. "You'll get pie in the sky when you die" seems one that has become fashionable again not entirely by accident. Widerberg does not attempt the analogy, but he makes you do so. That is the strength of his film. Its beauty and skill are more self-evident.

The forthcoming "Festival of Chinese Films" put on by the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (September 26 - October 9, Baker Street, Brixton, Hampstead, and Notting Hill Gate Classics) is much what you would expect. But somehow it still manages to surprise. Taking Tiger Mountain by Strategy (hardly a come-on title) is Modern Peking Opera, deadly serious song-and-dance, timed to a tee but stretching out into an eternity as its simplistic tale unfolds. Efficacious though, judging by The Red Canal, a documentary about peasants cutting through mountains and rearranging rivers with little to help other than the Thoughts of Chairman Mao.



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Glad to be back again

One point proved by the absence of newspapers is that people need them. Radio and television are quick and direct but their news bulletins are necessarily short, incomplete, and lacking in detail. Also, you have to switch on at the right time—or accept only the briefest of broadcast summaries. Newspapers give you more, give it in detail and with adequate explanation, and give it in a convenient form. They dig deeper and discover more. People want them because of their range and thoroughness. For that reason, and for a lot of others, we are glad to be back.

The settlement in the national newspaper dispute seems a reasonable and fair one. It could have been made, of course, without the damage and disruption of a stoppage. The industry hurts itself needlessly. But, thanks to Mr Vic Feather, a way has been found of reconciling the craftsmen's differentials, the claims of other workers,

and the financial limits imposed by the management. The cost of the settlement looks like being about 7 per cent—against the 5 to 6 per cent that the mid-June terms would have meant—and it can be carried. What could not have been carried was long continuation of the injury and losses caused by the break in publication.

For the Guardian, the stoppage has been a particular pain for we had planned to expand the paper this week. It was to have had more news pages, extra features, and an improved financial service. All that will now come next week. Over the past four years the Guardian has grown both in the scope of its services and in the number of copies sold. Next week will see a more comprehensive Guardian than ever before: we trust that it will reach you safely. Thank you, meanwhile, for returning to us after a regrettable interruption.

Ulster: the common ground

An inexorable logic emerges from the Northern Ireland debate at Westminster, and for that alone the recall of Parliament was worthwhile. It is a logic that is in great measure bipartisan, running as strongly through the sane and responsible speech of Mr Wilson as through the deeply understanding analysis by the Home Secretary. The logic goes thus: violence cannot solve the problems of Northern Ireland—neither the shootings and bombings of the IRA nor, on their own, repressive measures by the army and police.

Yet those wholly committed to violence can only be overcome when they are isolated from the Catholic community in the ghetto areas. That isolation cannot come until the Catholics are not only getting a fair deal, but know that they are, and have institutional assurance that they are. Then the vicious spiral of Catholic sympathy for the IRA, leading to IRA control of the ghettos, and so to coercion of those who might help the army can begin to be replaced by a beneficent spiral of trust. That is the objective.

The method is talk. Never has the climate seemed more fruitful for negotiations on the future governing of Northern Ireland. The Unionists' statement show that they are in the mood to accept major institutional changes. The negotiations will be about the right subjects. The Social Democratic and Labour Party oppositions at Stormont know that they must talk about how to run Northern Ireland justly and in time prosperously, not about the unit of Ireland which is a deeply divisive subject. And in Mr Maudling they have a chairman who understands a lot more about the aspirations of Ulster Catholics and the fears of Ulster Protestants than he did a year ago.

There is only one fly in the ointment: internment. The SDLP have unwisely committed themselves against negotiating until all internees are released. Mr Wilson added his voice to those urging them to talk. The Home Secretary is willing to discuss internment with them. Stormont also says the agenda of the Maudling talks can include a study of how to end internment and mandatory sentences "as soon as possible."

The SDLP should think again about the talks; and those like Mr Wilson who have influence with them should honestly face up to the question Mr Maudling asked: would Labour in power release all internees, even those—now put as high as 160—claimed by the IRA as its members? The Home Secretary says that those who have come to talk to him—the smaller political parties and Ulster union leaders—have not asked for that. The case for releasing them all is certainly difficult to make, either politically or in reason, when the IRA is not only systematically murdering soldiers, but is engaged in dangerous sectarian violence against the civilian population.

The most effective critics of internment have

The real needs of retraining

Sustained exposure to had economic news tends to produce a degree of mental immunity. So it is with unemployment. Already the country is learning to live with the prospect of having up to a million people out of work for the foreseeable future. That is why the September unemployment figures, which have now reached 929,000, will probably not evoke much genuine outrage. Whatever personal distress the Government may feel at the unemployment situation, Ministers must be grateful for this law of diminishing returns. Otherwise they would not have adopted such a complacent attitude to those already out of work over the last 12 months.

Of course many of those without work could be given temporary jobs pending an economic recovery, if the Government would mount a major public works programme. A little is being done in that direction—but too little. Even so, the time spent by men without a job could still be pro-

ductive. When economic recovery eventually takes place, there will be serious labour shortages in many industries. Why not train men now? The shortage of skilled labour in key industries may be a key factor in preventing a sustained recovery in productivity and thus in economic expansion. To avoid future shortages, retraining is of crucial importance. Yet for all the declarations made by the present Secretary for Employment and his predecessors, the present state of the retraining programme is laughable. Even when the extra 3,400 places promised by Mr Carr become available at retraining centres there will be only one vacancy for every 2,500 unemployed. Other countries manage a lot better. As a speaker in the Liberal Assembly's economic debate last week pointed out, if Britain was retraining her unemployed on the same scale as Sweden there would be some 500,000 workers on courses at present, not 10,000.

A COUNTRY DIARY

ISLE OF ARRAN: Vertical heather is a striking feature of some parts of this enchanted island. You progress up the steeper hillsides by grabbing tufts of it and hauling yourself up—a much more strenuous exercise than the ascent of the beautiful granite slabs which liberally pattern the tilted purple acres. While I was thus engaged on the Glen Sannox face of Cich na h'Òighe, fifteen red deer passed just below without spotting me; I could have dropped a stone on any one of them and had ample time to observe them at leisure. Except for once near Braemar in wintertime when I must have seen up to a thousand in the glen one afternoon I have never seen so many red deer in the hills as I have in Arran. Once I saw several hundred not three miles from Brodick Pier and on this recent holiday I encountered herds each time I went into the hills. Sometimes I followed deer "trods" over the heather. They climb more steeply than sheep "trods" but are badly cut up, especially at the boggy places, as if the animals had plunged and slithered rather than treaded like Agas which is how the more careful sheep negotiate steeper ground. There were nothing like as many human beings as deer in the hills and on two days I saw only one other party. Arran may be reached in four hours from the Lake District, but, mercifully, has not yet been "discovered" by the hordes. Much of the island's pleasant immunity from traffic congestion is due to the high costs of the car ferry and also, perhaps, because petrol pumps are few and far between—and often empty. But the Arran hills have a magic not unlike that of the Cuillin with their superb rock ridges, their loveliness, and their magnificent views of distant lands across the sea.

A. HARRY GRIFFIN

HE had better be called Padraic. I know of no high-ranking Padraics in the Republican movement, and it is getting a bit difficult finding an Irish pseudonym which does not upset some quite different fellow altogether.

Padraic is the military leader of the Official IRA in Belfast. He is a stocky, amiable man, coy about having his name printed—though it is not clear why as his name is well-known. He is in Belfast now, with his appearance suitably changed. If he is caught he is likely to be locked up for a very long time indeed.

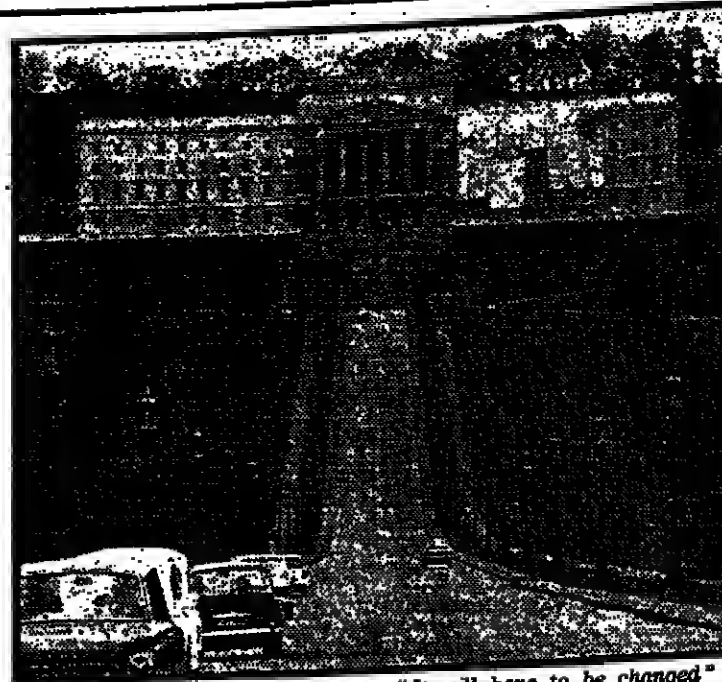
It is not too difficult to meet him, at the obvious place in Dublin—if he wants to meet you, that is. None of this nonsense about secret assignments in darkened cars or fellows keeping look-out in the doorway with Thompsons at the ready. When he left me in a hurry, he was wondering whether it wouldn't be quicker to catch the bus. But then this is Dublin.

Padraic has carried a gun in Belfast for the Official IRA, from the start of the present campaign. He is the acknowledged OC in Belfast, and not a front man. Since the Provisionals broke away from the Official IRA, both wings have maintained a Sinn Féin organisation, to sort out the politics of it all. The interesting thing about Padraic, in the military side of the movement, is the depth of his own gut politics. The answers come with feeling, unrehearsed and without prompting from the political front men. The Socialist Republican ideology is by no means fully thought through, but neither is it spattered with the usual jargon.

Yes, he says, there is cooperation between the Official and Provisional IRA in Belfast. "There is assistance for defence. In some cases we will exchange weapons and ammunition. But we will only use force in a defensive situation, or in reprisals—either retaliation against the British Army on the spot, or later."

"We have always stated that we will cooperate on common ground. Politically, as well. Like the joint committees of Officials and Provisionals and the tenants' associations which were set up to keep the rents and rates strike going. Our targets are only military ones—military installations or personnel. That's the first obvious statement between us and the Provos, and the people are beginning to really understand that and really understand why."

"We do not want to become engaged in a campaign against the British Army. We do not



Stormont: "It will have to be changed"

The rocky road to Stormont

ALAN SMITH meets the military chief of Belfast's Official IRA

see it as such. We shot the two British soldiers in the bar in Belfast because they were both members of the Green Jackets, who had been especially brutal to the people in the Falls." But how can a revolutionary Socialist movement shoot soldiers who are, after all, working people? "In 1961 I went to Manchester as a sparks master—an electrician's mate. I met two fellows there and became very friendly with them, very close. They had been conscripted and done their National Service in Northern Ireland."

"I never revealed to them what my background was [he was interned for four years during the last IRA campaign] though I went round to their houses and was in and out of their back doors all the time and had a meal with them every Sunday. It struck me very forcibly at that time that a few years back we might have been shooting each other."

"These soldiers: we must look at them as something impersonal. If we kill a soldier it is because he is a part of a repressive system. We can't

afford to look at it personally. We consider the soldiers are just as much the victims of the system which makes it necessary."

How much support would be given the Provisionals' general bombing campaign? "None. We repudiate entirely the Provos' use of non-military targets. The sort of freedom the Provos are fighting for is not for the benefit of the working people. It would just be some sort of continuation of Fianna Fáil rule. We want a country owned by the people for the people."

"The bombers will get no shelter from us. And I won't give them explosives to carry out a stupid bombing. Force must be directly related to political demands. People are beginning to understand that, and the difference between us and the Provos. Under our circumstances would we support a bombing campaign?"

"Stormont as it now exists will have to be changed for a more democratic assembly. We believe that both establishments, North and South, will

have to be destroyed. One has to exchange the Union Jack for the Tricolour and maybe some other letter boxes green. It doesn't mean anything."

"Our original campaign in the South, our agitation in the 26 counties, has been diverted by the campaign in the North. We want to get back to a protracted political campaign, both North and South, back to a revolutionary movement at the grass roots. That's the difference between now and our campaigns in the forties and fifties—they were purely physical force campaigns."

"Some sort of deal is being worked out. The SDLP (the Social Democratic and Labour Party) was formed expressly to provide a united opposition which could settle for some kind of deal. They're looking for some kind of federal deal."

"Gerry Fitt's statement was backing up the Bishops, and attacking the Provos. Fitt says he is in favour of some kind of federal deal—and that means a deal with Fianna Fáil. An interim political settlement would not satisfy us, but it would mean we could get back to the political campaign."

"Yes, of course, it has been difficult to keep people aware of the political difference between us and the Provos when there is fighting. But they are seeing the difference now. When there was that funeral of the 14-year-old girl in Derry, the Provos were there and they shot over the heads of the crowd at an Army post. It was a long way off. The result might have been that the Army shot back at the crowd—I don't know if the Provos really wanted that or not. After the women saw that and realised that it might have happened, they were very angry. About 200 of them wanted to march up the Brandywell and tell the Provos to stop it. The Officials were there too and told them not to, but I would have been delighted if they had."

"Some of the women have been coming to us and telling us they want the Provos to stop the bombing; and they say they will stop the bombing if the Provos stop the bombing. In some areas they have told the Provos they don't want them to organise defence. They will do it themselves at night with the bin lids. That's because they realise the Provos want the British Army to come in—they want to start the fighting. We have been able to move in then and organise defence. The women are very aware. We are winning the war of hearts and minds."

UCS and the TUC

Sir,—Christopher Layton begins his article "Workers' Say-Time" (September 9) with the remark that at the TUC "little thought and debate have been devoted to the issues that lie behind the events at Upper Clyde," and claims that British entry into EEC would advance the cause of industrial democracy.

The West German system of "co-determination," which has been proposed by the Commission as the model for the European Limited Company, is in fact under severe criticism from EEC trade unionists, both "Communist" and "non-Communist." The Belgian "TUC" (FGTB) has recently issued a detailed policy statement (available from us in English) which includes the following remarks: "Co-determination is an instrument of integration into the capitalist system. . . . Under this system, the responsibilities of management without any real power to change it."

Very many trade unionists in Italy and France have expressed similar views. If industrial democracy means anything it surely entails extending the powers of employees and curtailing those of employers. Both opponents and proponents of industrial democracy would agree that workers have, inadequate though it may be, achieved a

higher degree of influence over corporate decision-making in Britain than in any country of the Six. This is the reason why the passing of the Industrial Relations Act had to be guaranteed before the Six would agree to British entry.

It is equally preposterous to suggest that the power of multinational companies would be reduced by enlarging the EEC. It is hardly a coincidence that every multinational company is strongly in favour of the EEC and of Britain going in.

On this subject, the "non-Communist" FTGB says: "The setting up of the European Limited Company (ELC) in fact risks an acceleration in the creation of multinational companies on which union pressure is usually weaker than on national companies. . . . One might wonder if it is advisable for trade unions to support the setting up of ELC's when no really far-reaching planning exists on the European scale." Again, very many trade unionists in France and Italy agree.

It is certainly no coincidence that the TUC delegates were as overwhelmingly against EEC as they were in favour of extending the powers of employees and diminishing those of employers. How right they are!—Chris Farley.

Director,
Bertrand Russell Peace
Foundation Ltd.,
London SW 1.

Forsooth, a bloody logic

Sir,—So Sir Bernard Miles (September 13) finds there is textual justification for a nude Desdemona and a visibly virile Othello? Fair enough; well as we may think we know Shakespeare's plays after having seen them performed many a time and off a fresh look at what the playwright actually wrote is never time wasted. I have just re-read "Othello" and I have news for Sir Bernard.

Stage directions apart (they may have been later interpolations) and setting aside tradition (past actor-managers and producers may have been given to sensationalism), I find textual references to the following: In full view of the audience, the wounding of Mootano, Roderigo, Cassio, and Iago; the murder of Desdemona and of Emilia; the suicide of Othello; the off-stage death, from grief, of Brabantio.

Now then: surely Sir Bernard

is not going to be so inconsistent, unscholarly, old-fashioned—and what you will—as to let his actors and actresses get away with merely feigning injury and death? Of course he's not.

However, whilst I appreciate that this will reduce the number of British Equity unemployed, what the local hospitals and mortuaries are going to say I can't imagine; road casualties and abortions usually guarantee them "House Full" notices. Or does Sir Bernard propose to dump the nightly expeditious in Puddle Dock?

Now that would be really naughty—just as the Thames has begun to show signs of becoming less polluted, I'm sure all conservationists will join me in saying: "Think again, Sir Bernard."—Yours sincerely,
Joan Fyle.

221 Spring Grove Road,
Isleworth, Middlesex.

Cause for complaint

Sir,—My youngest son recently visited Copenhagen on a Scout Cruise and seemed highly amused but otherwise unaffected by the graphic coloured photographs of oral sex and other variant practices.

Yesterday evening, however, he was downers complaining of being unable to sleep, an almost unbearable event. The reason: he had read of and seen prints at school of child labour a century ago—children

forced up chimneys and harnessed to coal trucks in the mines.

There is no doubt which disturbs his peace of mind more. Could Lord Longford extend his terms of references to include cruelty? His observations would then become more relevant and the word obscene more really defined as "offence to decency."

Brian K. Youngs,
112 Draycott Avenue,
Harrow.

LETTERS
to the Editor

Next instalment

Sir,—I cannot believe that the text as published (September 14) of the conversation of the Lloyds Bank robbers is a verbatim report of what was actually said.

Those measured tones—not a single overlapping of one sentence by another—no muttered imprecations as one robber accidentally sears the seat of another robber's trousers with his thermic lance.

It's all too smooth and undramatic. Take this passage, for instance: "You have got to experience exactly the same position as me, mate, to understand how I feel. My eyes are so bad they are blurred, and I've been using binoculars all night." It just doesn't ring true. Who ever heard of self-respecting bank robbers talking like that?

My guess is that copies of the script of somebody's deservedly unaccepted radio play were inadvertently issued to the press. I anticipate with no enthusiasm at all hearing the rest of the script on Radio 4 any Saturday afternoon from now on.—Yours truly,
John Falmley,
45 Redhill Drive,
Edgware, Middlesex.

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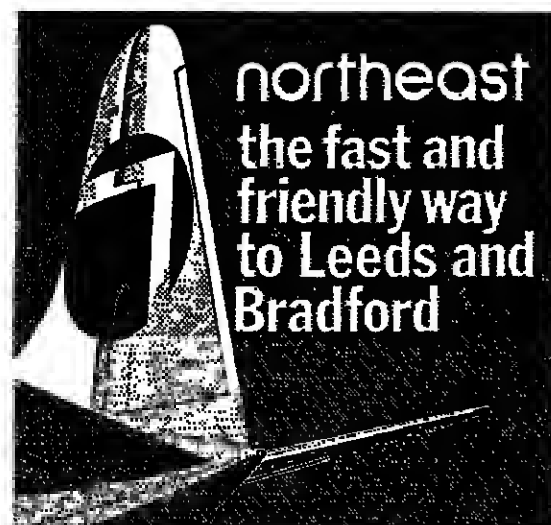
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Clues in the desperate paperchase

KEITH HARPER reports

PETER JENKINS

(who has just returned from the Middle East)

Time on their side

PRESIDENT SADAT'S belated utterances are making little impression upon Israel. The calm atmosphere in Jerusalem contrasts strikingly with the sense of foreboding experienced in Cairo. Israeli leaders are at pains to minimise the threat of war and emphasise the prospects of progress towards a settlement. In less secure days Israel used to advertise her vulnerability to the world: the more she appeared threatened the faster would the money and arms pour in from abroad. Today's theme is the very opposite: no cause for alarm, we can handle it, things are beginning to go our way.

Even the loss of an aircraft on the eve of the Jewish New Year—the most serious incident along the Canal since the ceasefire—cannot force a year ago—was very much played down in Jerusalem. The official view was that the shooting was an "isolated incident" and there was no rush to revise the barbed-wire confident appraisal of the situation after a year of effective ceasefire but abortive international diplomacy.

The starting point of the Israeli analysis is the balance of power. For as long as the balance in Israel's favour can be maintained there will remain scope for diplomacy. The official line is that Sadat will not go to war merely because he has said he will, or because he has set himself a timetable: he will go to war only if and when he is convinced that he can win.

A dialogue

Israel, therefore, intends to persist in the policy known as "the mobilisation of pressures." Her objective is to force Egypt into a dialogue. The directness or indirectness of the form of negotiation has become a secondary consideration. What matters is that there should be a dialogue of substance. Therefore there will be no sweeteners—no more playing the Jarring game, no prior commitments to evacuate captured territory, no concessions to the refugees, absolutely nothing to encourage the Egyptians in the belief that they can bring off a proxy peace.

Total war or total peace are seen as unreal options. The Egyptians do not have the means to wage total war and their Russian sponsors have no intention of doing it for them. Sadat has ruled out total peace—as he put it, a peace in which Mrs Golda Meir could go shopping in Cairo.

To this the Israelis say: In return for less than total peace Sadat will get less than total withdrawal. We must insist upon a "defensible borders" until the day comes when Mrs Meir can go shopping in Cairo.

So the immediate choice for the Egyptians is between interim peace and interim war. Some Israeli leaders privately admit that they expect the interim war to come first. This is the opinion of military intelligence which is aware that the Egyptians are preparing amphibious equipment.

The choice But what is expected is not a serious attempt to recover Sinai but a series of combined operational raids across the Canal. This does not affect the politicians' calculation that Sadat will find it increasingly in his interest to enter into an arrangement for reopening the Canal and thereby embark upon the beginnings of a dialogue.

The Israelis believe firmly that time is now on their side. According to an army general "for the first time since 1948 there is as much urgency on their side as on ours." But how much urgency is there really on the Israeli side? A peace settlement would be preferred to a continuing state of belligerence, but security considerations remain paramount. If it takes the Arab world another 10 or 20 years to come to terms then Israel will wait, secure as never before behind its defensible borders, as a socialist academic of federalist persuasion is determined none the less. He has known Layton for many years and admired his speeches and writings on European industry. He means to have him.

So President Sadat's threats of war are not going to budge the Israelis from their position of strength on the Canal. Any military move by Egypt will find its simple answer. To allegations that Israel has no serious intention of abandoning her conquests the answer given is: "Let Sadat call our bluff, then negotiation fails he can still have his war, so what has he to lose?"

Meanwhile, Israel is calling the Egyptian bluff. And the danger to the world is that President Sadat may not entirely bluff and might succeed in sucking the outside world into a new Middle Eastern embroilment.

It all became fairly obvious that an end to the Fleet Street dispute was in sight when the champagne glasses were taken up to the negotiators at the Newspaper Publishers' Association in Boulevard Street at 6.30 on Wednesday night. Suspicions were confirmed an hour later when a boxful of cheese and tomato sandwiches were brought down for waiting journalists, and also distributed among about 50 print workers waiting outside. The cries of "They're nearly through lads," were good natured, as though everybody was glad that the four-day skirmish was over.

Newspaper offices still frantically persisted in the view until 7.15 p.m. that there

could be morning newspapers yesterday, although Mr Rupert Murdoch's statement three hours before that there would not be any newspapers should have made them shut up shop for the night. Ramours and contradictions continued to speed round the various offices. The "Daily Sketch" was prepared to go ahead with a 24-page paper and had summoned in extra staff to cope. The "Daily Express" was planning a 16-page paper up until six o'clock. With a settlement only a few hours past printing deadlines, every newspaper had been willing the negotiators to finish earlier.

After four days of talks and crisis, has anything been achieved? Can Fleet Street continue to survive this perennial crisis which sends the proprietors running round

to Mr Vic Feather at the first sign of trouble? Since last year's stoppage by one union over a claim for a 25 per cent pay increase the "Daily Sketch" has closed. This current crisis, which begins to make the motor industry look like one of the better organised, will probably not lead to any immediate closures in Fleet Street, but it cannot improve the long-term prospects of some papers.

The importance of settlement is not in what it will provide in terms of cash to five of the Fleet Street "blue collar" unions, but what it is likely to contribute towards the future stability of the national newspaper industry. In this respect, the phrase being repeated yesterday by both unions and management on future talks about efficiency and economy hold

the key to what may lie ahead. After last year's settlement, the unions and management, prompted by the tireless Mr Feather agreed to set up a steering committee to examine ways of achieving an equitable wages structure in Fleet Street. The idea behind the operation was to produce a formula which could be acted on within the 12-month period of last year's agreement. As has so often happened with previous attempts the committee had to wind up its affairs because the unions could not agree among themselves.

The trouble was and has always been the representation of differentials between the craft and non-craft unions. To its credit, the National Graphical Association did put forward certain proposals for an improved wages structure

but the other unions refused to discuss them.

Something else must be worked out if the national newspaper industry is not to find itself in the same position at the end of next year, the date when the proposed agreement is to end. Mr Feather is likely to initiate informal soundings among the print unions within the next few months. If anything, they seemed to have learned the lesson from last year that progress in such a delicate field can only be maintained by quiet crafts, rather than the formal straitjacket of a steering committee.

In any discussion affecting Fleet Street, it would also be valuable if the journalists themselves participated. They have as large a stake in the future of the industry as other groups of workers,

yet their union, and with it the membership, have never spurred themselves into pushing on with a multi-union discussion on the industry's labour problems. The journalists' lack of assertion is the main reason why the NPA has always treated them with scant regard.

As for the agreement, the NPA and the unions can claim that they both have come away with something. It is not a large settlement. Seven per cent over 15 months at a cost of £6 millions is not much more than the rejection of the 5.6 per cent offer over 12 months, costing £4.8 millions. The skilled men, belonging to the National Graphical Association, who precipitated the crisis by holding meetings during working hours, thereby disrupting production, can

also claim that the proposed deal protects their differentials.

May he, too, we are about to witness a new dawn of improved relationships among the print unions. At Wednesday's marathon meeting at the NPA, some members of SOGAT (Union 4) turned up with their overnight bags, ready to go off to Ayr for a scheduled meeting of their general secretary, delayed as long as he could. The negotiating team he put Bill Keys, his number 2, in charge of the talks while he flew northwards. "It demonstrated the spirit of understanding which grew up between us during those four frantic days," said another union leader afterwards. Let's hope it lasts.

WITH THE ARMY hand playing frantically, the Montagnard hamlet chiefs marched in columns of fours into the compound of the military training school at Pleiku. Halting in the baking sun, they came to attention and gave a short how to President Nguyen Van Thieu, sitting motionless in his armchair on the dais, his grey fedora hat laid on his lap. The President then walked down to distribute hamlet chief deeds, gay with long red official seal ribbons. Clapping them under their left arms, the hamlet chiefs stood in for the occasion from every province of Vietnam's central highland region, face brown, unkempt men with none of the elegance of stature and figure of their Vietnamese fellow citizens.

In the last few months, General Ngo Dinh Diem "relocated" some 55,000 Montagnards, expelling them from remote hamlets in "insecure" areas to camps where conditions were far from adequate to appalling. No mention of this was made in the speechifying. And the province chief of Pleiku—a Vietnamese—said with enthusiasm: "You see how democratic we Vietnamese are? We even give votes to these savages." The Minister for Ethnic Minorities, himself a Montagnard, winces visibly.

The President, thick-bodied and stubby, armed with a heavy, solid head, walks round briefly. He takes some Montagnard rice wine and dons an embroidered Montagnard jacket. "I hear you had some rockets yesterday," he says to General Dai, commander of the Central Highlands region. "were they accurate?" (Shrapnel hit one sergeant in the neck, says an American officer. "He sat there pumping blood for a while, guess, then he just died and fell over.") The President tells the hamlet chiefs that boycotting the election would be wrong and unconstitutional. Today they will be flying back to their hamlets to pass the message on, no doubt.

The President exudes a kind of self-willed, obstinate force. He has no party and no party machine. What he does have is what one US official describes as "far and away the best network in the country," which simply means that the province chiefs, the military region commanders, the division

PRESIDENT THIEU: he has no party and no party machine

Thieu in his harried state

Martin Woollacott, Saigon, Thursday, on the forces against the President

commanders, and many members of the Assembly and the Senate are Thieu men—placed by him, sustained by him, and dependent on him. Earlier this month an election strategy meeting was held in Saigon, province chiefs and others attending.

General Duong Van Minh, Thieu's erstwhile main opponent, has no network at all, except in so far as the An Quang Radical Buddhist Church lent him one for the occasion, and the southern Catholic community gave him some support, too. An Quang, and the southern and northern Catholics—Ky is the high patron of the latter—have enough social as opposed to administrative or armed forces, power to have delivered Minh a considerable vote in South Vietnam's larger cities and in few rural areas. Not remotely enough, however, to prevent his use of the instrument he has fashioned to sustain his power: a personal control of the Administration and, to a lesser extent, of the armed forces.

When the United States, in



the person of Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, finally told Minh that they would not do this, the general withdrew, as did Ky. Thieu's gamble—if it ever was a gamble—paid off last week when President Nixon came out in his support, indicating that the United States has accepted Thieu's demand that the US must continue to provide not only military assistance indefinitely but a minimum of \$800 millions in economic aid annually.

"What has Nixon done?" says a senior adviser to General Minh, the Buddhist academic, Ton That Thien. "He has endorsed in power a man who blocks the way to peace. What Thieu is going to have three, four, five more years of war. How many of my students will be left alive at the end of that time, how much will be left of this country? There have been small anti-Thieu demonstrations almost daily over the last two weeks in Saigon, with some in the other two big cities. A few American jeeps have been burned. The police, who originally managed or less ignored these affairs, have come out in force for recent ones.

The question now is

whether the next 10 days—before the election on October 3—will see a major movement of street protest. The Opposition is divided into three groups—students, Southern Catholics, Northern Catholics. An Quang Buddhists, the Ky and Minh entourage. Of these, the most important is An Quang, which has given its first public directive to Buddhists since 1963—recommending that they "ignore" the election. But An Quang is now much more involved in the formal political system than in 1963 or 1966—two occasions in the past when it used its street power to bring changes.

An Quang Buddhists form the core of enlarged Opposition groups in both the Senate and the Assembly. For the An Quang leadership the question must be whether it is worth dissipating strength in street protest and to what object.

For Ton That Thien and others, the object is clear: to show the Americans that they think they have bought "stability" in South Vietnam by supporting Thieu, they are mistaken. An Quang, however, may be satisfied with formal political protest—like yesterday's passage of the Senate resolutions calling on President Thieu to postpone and reorganise the elections.

The resolution was read out on national television last night by the chairman of the Senate, reaching, one senator claimed today, every hamlet in Vietnam, and he said, "stripping Thieu of legitimacy in the eyes of the country folk." Such a gesture preserves honour until the time when what most of the Opposition is really hoping for takes place—an American change of heart.

President Nixon is a man who has eaten his words before, said another Minh aide. "The time may well come when he will wish to discard Thieu." General Minh, tending his rose garden while he waits like de Gaulle for a clear and unequivocal call from the people, will be receptive to all the beautiful scenarios. Meanwhile, President Thieu, who confided to reporters last week that being a President in war was more fun than the roads, schools, and hospitals staffed by peace-time rule, remains in determined charge, squarely faithful to his own now largely unshared vision of his duty and the nation's future.

Anthony Tucker on America's leading doom-merchant

Mister Catastrophe

PAUL EERLICH is preaching revolution and he reveals in it. No one doubts that he is the most politically explosive and controversial Professor of Biology in the United States, and no one who has read "The Population Bomb" will doubt that he has a massive case for pessimism about the future of mankind. But the most disturbing thing about him is not the eloquence and precision he brings to the analysis and prediction of eco-catastrophe, but the sheer power and single-minded compulsion that has transformed academic conclusions into a political campaign.

In full flight on a barnstorming lecture tour of Europe he'll look at you with hard eyes and say: "If the people of an island economy don't understand the need for population control we've got to work fast. Put a wall round Britain and you'd starve. Put a wall round Europe and its systems would collapse."

Those walls, he argues, are already rising fast through resources depletion and population growth. "What's the use of agricultural systems aimed at short-term gains and the slow destruction of the ability to grow crops?" The Green Revolution may be morally justified but seems likely to guarantee that the world will have a much larger population to starve a little later.

In Britain he may well have arrived too soon. We are not so far down the destructive funnel as the US, nor so wracked by pollution or the

profligate garbage of affluence. He sees Britain's over-tures to the Common Market as a manifestation of precisely the same political and materialist greed that has brought crisis to the US and total blindness in the West to real planetary limits.

What will happen to your fisheries?" he asks. "And what will happen when the hunt for minerals bots up?" More seriously, bow will Europe be placed when the crash comes and she, and we, are thrown back on our own resources.

Hence Ehrlich's drive, in the US, for Zero-population Growth (ZPG), a grass-roots organisation aimed at convincing the Administration that control must begin at home, not in the jungles of developing countries.

Curious, you might say, for a man dedicated to the universal adoption of practices which are wholly equitable and ecologically sound. He has an answer. "If you are on the Titanic" he says, "why travel steerage?" Why Indeed.

* Ballantine-Pan; to be published on October 8; 40p.

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MISCELLANY

Spin along

BRITAIN looks like getting its first senior official into the Common Market. Commission before having signed anything so trivial as the Treaty of Rome. Altiero Spinelli, the commissioner for industry and technology, is eager to recruit Christopher Layton, the Liberals' old expert on industry, as his chief de cabinet as soon as possible.

Layton was Jo Grimond's personal adviser when he was leader of the party. He fought three times but never quite won, the Liberals' hopeful seat of Chippingham, and the Swindon byelection in 1969. More recently, Layton has been running a Centre for European Industrial Studies at Bath. The Brussels job would make him head of Spinelli's team of executive assistants—usually politicians, rather than civil servants.

There are, though, two flies in the ointment. First, some of the other commissioners are none too happy about an English initiator. And secondly, ambitious Italians, who might have hoped to work for their commissioner, will hardly take kindly to the appointment. Spinelli, a Socialist academic of federalist persuasion, is determined none the less. He has known Layton for many years and admired his speeches and writings on European industry. He means to have him.

Mental stealth

KAFKA you should be living. Two Labour ex-Ministers, Christopher Mayhew and David Ennals, spent four days in a mental hospital. Mayhew, late of the Ministry of Defence, is chairman of the National Association for Mental Health. Ennals, late of Health and Social Security, is its campaign director. The idea was that they



LAYTON: into Europe

would be better equipped to explain the reality of hospital life to a jaded public. The hospital staff knew who they were. Their fellow patients did not.

At one point, Ennals confided in one of them that he had once been an MP. The patient gave a knowing smile. He confessed to another that he was not a proper patient at all. "No, no, of course not," the man purred. A thin partition...

Prefabrication

WITH vacant possession: five small, fully-equipped portable homes. Ideal holiday chalets. Letting agent: Brian Faulkner, proprietor of the interim camp at Long Kesh, near Belfast, in whose asphalt acres they are situated. Owners: unclear, but try Shelter or even the Greater London Council.

Back in autumn, 1969, after Belfast's first orgy of house-burning, Shelter shipped 100 prefabs, given by the GLC, to house the homeless. After use for some months at sites in West Belfast, many were with-

drawn for storage along the runways at Long Kesh, an army vehicle depot and former airfield.

Attempts to buy the houses were foisted off in the confusion of the post-war property boom. Now, however, the rows of stored houses shortened. The army has been commandeering them for use at various spots around the airfield. In the end, only five lonely little boxes were left on the runway.

Construction of the interim camp began immediately alongside, some weeks before interment was introduced on August 9. A high security fence was thrown up around the internees' Nissen huts, and it enclosed the five Shelter houses too. It has no gateway wide enough to get them out.

Ship yarn

THE BOY for the job, part 237. Hugh Stenhouse, the Government's newly appointed chairman of the newly constituted Govan Shipbuilders, Ltd, which is meant to take over two of the Upper Clyde shipyards, is now known as Hugh Stenhouse, till this week national treasurer of the Scottish Tories.

Less well known, his Stenhouse Holdings, a modest company, last year handed over a cool £30,000 to Conservative funds. This was the highest single donation from any firm.

Daley dozen

STORM in a tea co. In Chicago, "Boss," a hardhitting exposé of Mayor Richard Daley's regime, is now the hottest book in town after its withdrawal last week from 200 supermarkets because of "customer complaints." The banning, it turned out, was the result of pressure on the National Tea Company supermarket chain by the

Escape to Fulfilment

How did JESUS CHRIST change the life of actor JAMES FOX

Who are the Navigators

BP raising £120M to finance huge capital spending plan

By JOHN COYNE

British Petroleum is raising £120 millions in the first of a series of funding operations designed to finance a capital spending programme which will top £375 millions this year and which will rise in each of the following years.

The news was greeted with relief on the Stock Exchange since it ended the speculation and uncertainty, by replacing the rumours that have persisted for many weeks now with solid fact, and by killing the fear that the Government might shrink its share of the financing burden.

Bahamas curb on transfers

The Government of the Bahamas, which belongs to the sterling area, has announced new exchange control measures which are aimed at limiting transfers into other members' currencies.

From now on importers wishing for any non-Bahamian currency will have to produce evidence that the goods for which it is needed are due for shipment immediately.

So far there are no other details on exactly how the Bahamians will operate the controls, but banks with interests in the area say that the change probably will not affect the many companies which use the Bahamas as a tax haven.

The islands contain more than 200 banks and the assumption there is probably going to be no change in their position either. But the move could hit property companies, for if British investors find that convertibility is limited, and that funds from property sales could not be automatically transferred back, their enthusiasm may wane.

The measures have been taken because the Bahamian dollar has been affected by the currency crisis. It is in a particularly vulnerable position. Officially it is issued and redeemed against the pound, but most of the islands' imports—and tourism—are financed in American dollars.

BP shares which had initially slipped, bounded up 12p immediately after the news, though they later shaded to close with a net gain on the day of 4p at 606½p.

The money is being raised with an equity rights issue to shareholders in what is the biggest ever share sales operation of its kind. It will be on the basis of an offer of one new share at 514p for every 15 shares presently held. The issue price of 514p compares with the stock market price for BP of 606½p so a full subscription looks assured even without the benefits of an expensive underwriting operation.

Government stake

The Government which holds a 48.6 per cent stake in BP has indicated that it will take up its entitlement of 11,630,769 ordinary shares at a cost of just under £60 millions. Burnham Oil, the major shareholder with around 23 per cent of the shares, has decided not to take up its entitlement. Subscription would cost Burnham £27½ millions.

Instead the 5,523,823 shares in question will be offered by BP direct to Burnham shareholders in the ratio of one new BP share for every £24.40p nominal of Burnham ordinary stock.

The Burnham board says that it will give BP every assistance to enable this to be done, and the Inland Revenue has confirmed that in the event acceptance by Burnham stockholders would not give rise to any taxation liabilities either on the shareholders or on Burnham.

American stockholders including holders of the American Depository Receipts issued by Morgan Guaranty Trust will be included in the rights offer. The 514p due on the shares will be paid in two instalments, 275p on acceptance by November 4, and 239p by April 6, 1972. That second date is relevant in that the Government will have to find only half the money in this fiscal year, and make provision for the remaining half in next year's main estimates.

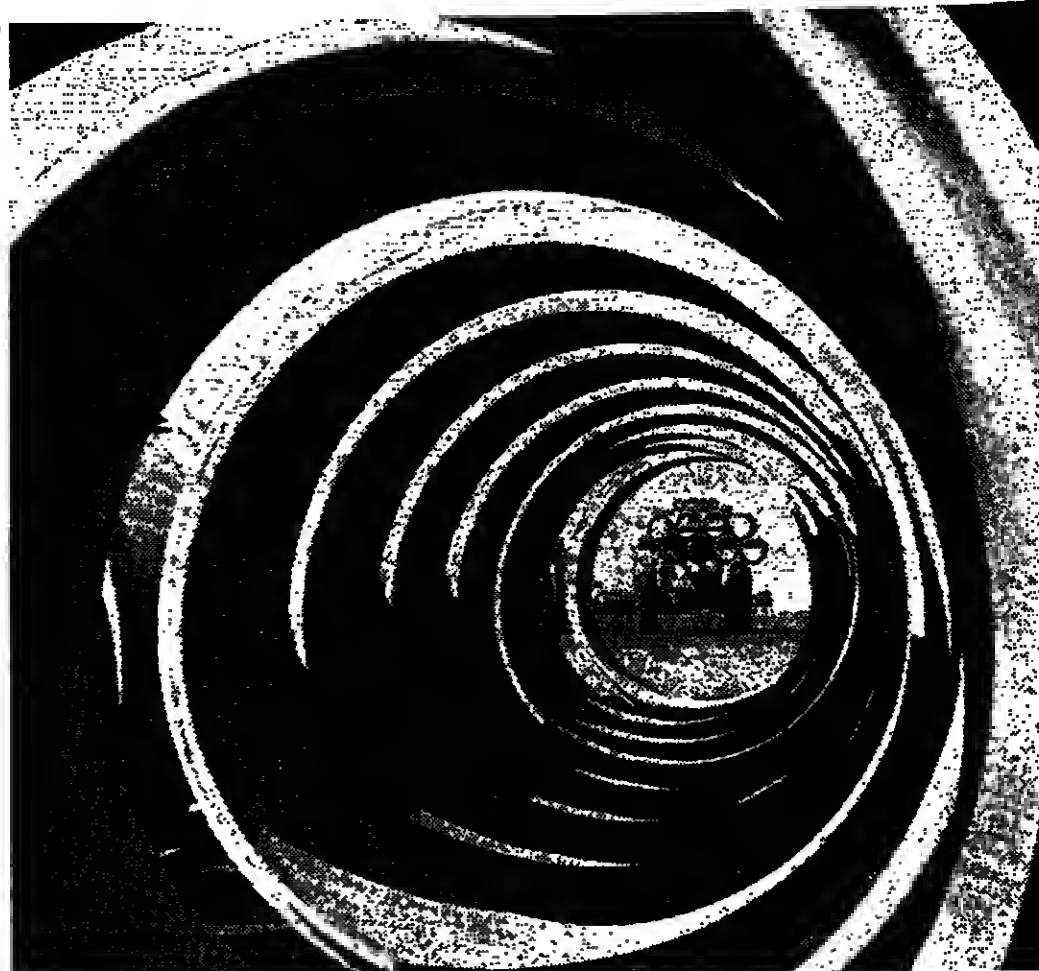
Most of BP's massive capital spending plans which involve expenditure of more than £1 million every single day of the year, will be financed by cash flow and fixed interest borrowings. Chairman Sir Eric Drake said last night that the rights issue is designed to bring the company's equity capital more into line with its assets and the scale of its operations, both of which have increased substantially since the last rights issue in 1966.

"For the future I don't believe that there will be any slowing in the rate or scale of investment by the oil industry," he added.

"The group expects its capital expenditure to be about £375 millions in 1971 and rather more in each of the immediately following years. Some increase in equity is necessary to keep company financing reasonably in balance, although the major part of expenditure will be met by the group cash flow and by borrowing," Sir Eric concluded.

Wall Street

Wall Street closed slightly lower yesterday. The Dow Jones Industrial Index was 2,270 at 891.38.



Unusual spiral effect during loading operations at the 80-acre factory complex of Charcon Pipes, Pollington, Yorkshire. A large fleet of forklift trucks and an average of 300 vehicle movements a week keep pace with increasing demand from motorway, drainage, and sewage schemes throughout the country

Post Office ultimatum

The Post Office yesterday issued an ultimatum to 130 freight forwarding agents who have just been linked into a vital computerised cargo handling system at Heathrow Airport—London. It told the agents, who are refusing to sign their contracts with the Post Office because of a dispute about the cost, to pay up in seven days or get thrown off the system.

A statement said: "Next Thursday the Post Office will discontinue service for any agent who has not agreed to pay."

Only a week ago the agents unanimously rejected revised Post Office contracts and Mr John Ambler, chairman of the air section of the Institute of Freight Forwarders, said yesterday that he hoped to call another meeting for next Tuesday—only two days before the deadline—to consider the latest Post Office position. He added that Heathrow was becoming "the most expensive freight terminal in Europe and possibly

By PETER RODGERS, Technology Correspondent

in the world" and warned that many of the agents might divert traffic from the airport if the dispute was not resolved. He could not say what decision the agents would take until after the meeting next week.

The cargo handling system, with which the agents are linked directly through computer terminals, is based on two big computers and is the heart of a new £23 millions cargo terminal at Heathrow. Its operation would be seriously curtailed if many agents withdrew, and if they were all adamant the system would be quite uneconomical.

Mr Murray Laver, head of the

Post Office's national data processing service which is managing the computer system for the British Airports Authority, said he did not believe that a show-down would be needed. The Post Office is in fact fairly confident that the agents will break ranks and indeed Mr Ambler admitted that this was a possibility.

Sixty computer terminals have been installed—many of them shared by more than one agent and one of them by 11—and Mr Ambler said that the user of 31 of these had said that they would give in for the sake of their customers "if forced to do so at pistol point."

The remainder would probably divert traffic elsewhere.

IMF leaks on revaluation shake dollar

By TOM TICKELL

The dollar slumped heavily in all Europe currency markets yesterday in a massive reaction to the leaks from the International Monetary Fund suggesting considerable revaluations by all the major countries outside the US.

In London the dollar fell heavily to close 1½ cents below its opening level against the pound and the final rate between the dollar and the mark in Frankfurt represents over a 10 per cent devaluation of the dollar against its last official level.

Trading was very hectic and the movement was all one way in both markets. There were also big falls against both French and Swiss francs.

In London the immediate reaction to the suggestion that the IMF wanted a 7.3 per cent sterling revaluation was to weaken the dollar by some 40 points. It had opened at \$2.4740 to the pound but moved to \$2.4780 immediately the news came through.

Most dealers said that trading was extremely heavy and that the deals were usually for more than a million pounds at a time. No one doubted that the leaks were accurate.

Most bankers thought that the Bank of England intervened in the market but several said the pace of trading had made it impossible to tell. But the outflow of dollars did not slow down, and the Bank may well have abandoned its attempts to steady the rate.

The closing price was \$2.4820 to the pound—with no sign that the shift out of dollars had finished.

Forward markets were just as strong and moved up very rapidly—though the Bank of England's announcement that it

was doubling the foreign exchange dealers' ratios for dealing in forward markets may have had some effect.

Each firm is allowed to deal in forward currency in a ratio to the level of its spot trading, though the percentage varies. But the big influence in forward, as in spot markets, was the leaks from the IMF.

The premium on sterling for delivery in one month's time doubled—from half a cent to a cent—and the movement in the longer dates was stronger still.

The premium on pounds collectable in a year's time shot up from 70 points—or 7/10 cent—to 2.4 cents. Dealers suggested that the Bank had made its move to widen forward trading, one way of taking pressure off spot sterling.

The feeling about the leaks was very strong. One banker remarked that whoever had leaked the report had been going in for straight manipulation of the market. By leaking the report he had gone some way to making his own predictions come true.

Certainly in Frankfurt the steady dollar sales left the US currency at its lowest level since the German Central Bank allowed the mark to float. The dollar fell by nearly 3 pfennigs over the day for it had started at 3.3875DM to the dollar and closed at around 3.3100DM.

The Bundesbank had taken in some \$42 millions at the fixing in the morning an indication of its supporting operations during the day.

But the most that dealers would say was that these moves had slowed down the dollar's decline, for nothing could counteract the impact of the IMF's suggestion of a 12.1 per cent German revaluation.

CITY COMMENT

BRITISH PETROLEUM

Insuring in success

IF YOU wanted to sell shares at 92p, or 15 per cent, below the market price you would hardly expect to have to pay insurance money to guarantee their sale as well.

Yet that is just what British Petroleum is doing with its £120 millions rights issue where it is offering its shares for sale at 514p while the market level is 606½p. It is giving underwriting commission to merchant banker bluebloods Lazard Bros, Morgan Grenfell, Schroder Wagg and Robert Fleming.

In fact the estimated costs of this issue being borne by the company seems high at just under £2 millions when it is remembered that the Government has already agreed to subscribe its £60 millions and thus this was secured in advance.

This means to effect that only £60 millions is to be raised from the public, and £2 millions represents a capital expense percentage of 3½ per cent—a pretty hefty charge for a blue chip company like BP, and most of it made up by the underwriting commissions.

Why in fact bother to underwrite, when no shareholder can

afford to ignore his rights? Because of the big discount on the current price the investor must either subscribe himself or sell the "rights" to someone else who will ultimately subscribe.

It's really a case of looking after the boys, or as BP put it—"It's the accepted practice to underwrite." Well I suppose so; the past year has, after all, been a poor one for the whole of our underwriters, and it is only right that they should get occasional handouts like this once in a while to compensate.

Too bad it's at the expense of BP shareholders, of which the largest is of course the long suffering tax payer through the Government's 48.6 per cent holding.

STAPLEGREEN

Lifting the shadow

THE RESULTS from Staplegreen Insurance Holdings are the only shadow on an otherwise bright financial sector. The figures are certainly bucking the recent trend of insurance broking which has shown profit rises of around 20 per cent. They could also cast doubts on the effectiveness of last year's management reorganisation.

Pre-tax profit for the year to the end of last March fell slightly from £1.98 millions to £1.77 millions but thanks to a tax charge which is down from 48 to 43 per cent and payment of minority interests, which fell by £70,000, net profit is slightly up at £914,000.

These results are roughly in line with expectations and at the interim stage the chairman had said that the total profit would not materially change.

There are two overt reasons for the poor results. First, investment income must have gone down as interest rates fell; then, the office rent for Hartley Copar, one of the largest subsidiaries, was much higher after the expiry of the lease on the head office.

But these factors were largely anticipated in the chairman's speech. What may not have been expected is that the administrative reorganisation, which followed a report from management consultants, may not have yet taken root completely.

A secondary reason is that the mechanised accounting system has not been working fully yet. This can take a long time as was shown by the experience of Stenhouse Holdings and, more recently, C. E. Heath.

All this is capable of a sharp turnaround. The new rent being paid by Hartley Cooper is a fixed element in the cost structure so there is an obvious ceiling element for future profits. The management aspects can be solved either through Staplegreen's own efforts or through a takeover.

There is no reason why the shares at 320p on a historic PE ratio of 17½ should be so much below the insurance broking average.

M AND G

A policy of the best return

IN ITS evidence to the Scott Committee investigating property and unit trust linked life assurance, the M and G Group, a leading unit trust organisation, argues strongly in favour of tighter regulation of commission agreements.

Taking a similar line to "Money Which?" (in its September issue) M and G is concerned that agents selling insurance are faced with a serious conflict of interest because of widening commission differentials.

Put crudely, where there are

substantial variations in the commission paid by life assurance firms to agents, the agent will be tempted to sell the policy which offers him the best return even where it may not be the best policy for the client.

M and G makes the valid point that whereas lawyers, accountants and consultant actuaries give impartial advice for a fee paid by the client, "it is only in the areas of insurance and building society operations that the principle of impartial professional advice directly and openly charged, has been breached on a wide scale."

It is not without significance that the breach has appeared in a mass market operating on narrow profit margins, and not in the specialist fields M and G mentions.

M and G suggests that a possible solution is to give the Life Office Association—the life assurance industry's trade association—a more formal regulatory role, and at the same time to require non-members of the association to meet stricter disclosure requirements.

While this solution looks neat, it is far from certain that the majority of LOA members would want the power M and G would like to give it. The LOA's existing commission agreement is already a source of strain within the organisation.

Other possible solutions such as the disclosure of commission structures are also problematical. Commission rates now frequently vary from broker to broker, with the broking firm doing the most business for a particular insurance company being paid a premium rate of commission.

This practice, while commercially justifiable, only undermines further the theoretical independence of the insurance broker. Another practical difficulty is that many insurance policies are not sold through insurance brokers at all but through the insurance firms own agents and branches.

It is the complexity of the insurance marketing function, the vast potential for abuse and disreputable practices which are already far too prevalent which face the Scott Committee with its most intractable problem.

It would be idle to suggest that there are any simple solutions. The temptation to try to solve the problem at a stroke probably accounts for the recommendations from the Law Society and the Institute of Chartered Accountants that door-to-door selling of unit linked insurance policies should be banned.

HOWDEN an international group with a broadening product base in the UK and overseas

In my first review to you as Chairman of Howden Group Limited it gives me great pleasure to report an encouraging turnaround in the profits of your company. In the past two years the company has undergone important change. Historically part of Clyde industry with the emphasis on heavy engineering and marine work, the company has and is still broadening its product base to serve a wide and growing range of markets. The benefits of these moves are now beginning to show tangible form.

The order book stands at a high level and should provide satisfactory profit margins and I am confident that the current year will show further improvement.

James Howden & Company . . . orders are now being booked at values which should give an adequate profit return . . . James Godfrey . . . looks forward to increasing turnover and profit contributions . . . James Howden & Godfrey Investments . . . a reasonable year . . . European Group . . . prospects in this group's refrigeration business are very encouraging . . . Canadian Group . . . order book is at a record level and prospects continue to look very good . . . South African Group . . . the current year should see the commencement of an upswing in the group's figures . . . Australian Group . . . a further increase in turnover and profits is forecast for the current year.

The above are extracts from the Chairman's statement

DAVID L. NICOLSON
A.G.M. Glasgow, 23rd September 1971

	1971	1970
TURNOVER	£ 30,227,000	£ 24,225,000
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	£ 930,256	£ 448,468

HOWDEN GROUP LIMITED HAS SEVEN OPERATING UNITS:

JAMES HOWDEN & COMPANY LIMITED

HOWDEN GODFREY LIMITED
JAMES HOWDEN AND GODFREY INVESTMENTS LIMITED
GODFREY PRECISION PRODUCTS LIMITED
BOURDON TOOLS LIMITED
RELEASE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LIMITED
ANDREW FRASER AND COMPANY LIMITED
SRIAN IL COLLINS (DISTRIBUTORS) LIMITED
HOWDEN STEEL EQUIPMENT LIMITED
HOWDEN SUPERHEAT LIMITED
MORRIS & LORIMER LIMITED
HOWDEN ENGINEERING LIMITED

CANADIAN GROUP

JAMES HOWDEN & PARSONS OF CANADA LIMITED
GODFREY ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED

SOUTH AFRICAN GROUP

JAMES HOWDEN SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED
JAMES HOWDEN & SAFANCO LIMITED
ATTACK ENGINEERING PTY. LTD.
GODFREY ENGINEERING (S.A.) PTY. LIMITED

AUSTRALIAN GROUP

JAMES HOWDEN & COMPANY AUSTRALIA PTY. LIMITED
GODFREY ENGINEERING (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LIMITED
VACU-BLAST (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LIMITED

EUROPEAN GROUP

JAMES HOWDEN HOLMA N.V.
FERGUSON HOLMA N.V.
HOLMA REFRIGERATION LIMITED
ANBERGEN N.V.
BLESSINGS ELECTRONICS N.V.



Copies of the latest report and accounts can be obtained from the Company's registered address 196 Scotland St., Glasgow, G.4.

380 Collins Street,
Melbourne, Victoria, 3000.
20th September, 1971.

By Order of the Board,
S. K. LARSEN,
Secretary.

حکومت القیوم

The business murder of Mr Maxwell

an interim report by inspectors investigating the affairs of companies practically owned by the "business" of millionaire ex-MP Robert Maxwell, a High Court judge said yesterday. Justice Forbes said he was moved by paragraph in the report saying "We form the opinion that Mr Maxwell was person who was doing everything and not listening to any of his advisers."

That, the judge said, led up to the final conclusion that Mr Maxwell was unfit to be in control of a public company.

Mr Maxwell is asking Mr Justice Forbes, sitting as Vice-Chancellor, to halt the inquiry into the affairs of the companies owned by him and his wife, Mrs. Margaret Maxwell, and to allow them to continue to run the companies as they see fit.

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Unit trust sales hit low point

By STEWART FLEMING

Unit sales of unit trusts in the first half of the year hit their lowest point since July 1961, according to the latest figures from the industry. Up-to-date evidence from some management companies suggests that unit sales are still depressed.

Unit sales in August were 74 million, substantially less than the July figure of 81 million. Repurchases rose from £12.7 million to £19 million, leaving net income of only £243,000 compared with £436,000 in July. Unit sales in August were 74 million, substantially less than the July figure of 81 million. Repurchases rose from £12.7 million to £19 million, leaving net income of only £243,000 compared with £436,000 in July.

Wright's is silent on offer

The obvious omission in the deal announced on Wednesday between Cavendish Foods and Wright's Biscuits and its sister company, Moore's Stores, is that as yet the Wright's board has given no indication to its shareholders whether to accept the Cavendish offer.

Cavendish, the fast-expanding food group which recently acquired Bovril, is bidding £2 million for Wright's and Moore's, which between them run about 1,500 shops and supermarkets.

Terms which have not finally been fixed will be worth around 45p per Wright's ordinary share and 30p for every Moore's share.

ONE OF America's biggest conglomerates has been paying a full-time executive to keep the company out of computers. With dozens of big and independent subsidiaries in electronics and telecommunications scattered around the world it feared that some of them might become too closely involved in a business which looked overcrowded even in the early sixties.

With the announcement last week that RCA is to pull out of computers, a year after General Electric threw in the towel and sold its computer business to Honeywell, this foresight looks more and more sensible. RCA's move is going to cost it \$250 million in write-offs and losses this year—after tax relief.

Darker outlook for computer firms

By PETER RODGERS, Technology Correspondent

suggested and came only weeks after it announced that it was entering the UK and European markets directly, instead of dealing through licences (especially Siemens). A sales force was being set up in London, so one band must have been working independently of another.

RCA was known to be talking with other companies in the business, including Xerox and Univac, but Xerox at least ruled out a merger in the strongest terms. Its president, Mr Peter Colough, said on Monday that it would be just a way of "buying weaknesses."

Capital & Counties

a developing property company

- Total assets £132 million—up £31 million during the year. Dividend raised from 8.5% to 9.5%.
- Development programme now totals some £150 million, for which the bulk of the long term finance has been arranged.
- Company now has investments in Australia, Bermuda, Geneva, New York and Singapore as well as first class portfolio of United Kingdom properties.

THREE YEARS GROWTH			
	1969 £000	1970 £000	1971 £000
Ordinary stock & reserves	33,951	43,826	49,726
Assets	63,938	101,183	132,136
Reinvested	2,637	5,802	7,033
Attributable to Ordinary Capital	807	1,279	1,653
Ordinary dividend %	7.7	8.5	9.5

Copies of the Annual Report can be obtained from the Secretary, Capital & Counties Property Company Limited, St. Andrews House, 40 Broadway, London SW1H 0BT.

The British Electric Traction Company, Limited

Sir John Spencer Wills forecasts further increase in profits

The Annual General Meeting of The British Electric Traction Company, Limited will be held on 14th October 1971, at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.2.

The following are extracts from the Review by Sir John Spencer Wills, Chairman and Managing Director, which has been circulated with the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 1971:

Accounts

The year ended 31st March 1971, saw a continuation of the growth of the previous year, but at an increased rate. The Accounts now presented show a profit attributable to the B.E.T. Company, after tax and minority interests, of £9,032,000 compared with £8,178,000 for the previous twelve months—an increase of 10.4 per cent on the record profit of the previous year.

Last year, I referred to the 20 per cent increase in earnings we had derived from the reinvestment of the £36 million cash received from the sale of the Group's London bus interests, compared with the last full year's contribution from the former bus companies. Today, the following postscript can be added. In 1970, the National Bus Company incurred an operating loss of some £5 million, due mainly to factors beyond its control, such as general wage and price inflation and declining passenger traffic. How much of that huge loss was attributable to the former bus interests of the B.E.T. Group is not known but, without doubt, it would have been a formidable figure. By contrast, in 1970 the businesses and investments we acquired with the £36 million proceeds of sale produced a gross profit of £4.1 million and, after tax and minority interests, a net profit of over £2.5 million.

Canadian Motorways

Twelve months ago, the prospects for any recovery by Canadian Motorways during 1970 did not appear encouraging. I am pleased, therefore, to report that our Canadian subsidiary's pre-tax profit last year of £451,000 was an improvement of 14 per cent on the 1969 result. Whilst this profit does not represent a satisfactory return on capital invested, the company emerged well from what was a particularly bad year for the Canadian road transport industry.

Although the recent announcement of a surge in imports into the United States of America will affect Canadian Motorways, I am optimistic that the group's results for 1971 will show further improvement.

Humphries Holdings

The continuation of the recession in the feature film and television industries, to which I referred in my last Review, had a most damaging effect on Humphries Holdings, the

major part of whose business comes from those two industries. A pre-tax loss of £329,000 was incurred in the year to 31st March 1971, compared with a pre-tax profit of £362,000 in the previous year.

Conditions in the film industry continue to be difficult but the Chairman of Humphries Holdings is convinced the company will show improved results in the current year and that, when recent capital investments become more productive and the full effect is felt of the various steps which have been taken to achieve greater efficiency, including certain senior management changes, Humphries Holdings will again earn satisfactory profits.

Argus Press Holdings

The pre-tax profit of Argus Press Holdings for 1970, at £383,000, was £100,000 better than the previous year's result.

In December last, Argus Press Holdings purchased two weekly newspaper groups from United Newspapers for a cash consideration of £1,050,000. They were the South London News Group, which operates in the southern suburbs of London and is geographically contiguous to our East Surrey Newspapers, and the Hornsey Journal Group which publishes weekly papers in North and West London. The benefits of rationalisation of the weekly newspaper interests will not be felt immediately and in the current year the pre-tax profit of Argus Press Holdings will be lower due to the cost of financing the acquisition of the two new groups.

Advance Laundries

Advance Laundries did considerably better in 1970 than had been expected at the time of my last Review. There was an 18.8 per cent improvement at the pre-tax level, which lifted profits to a record £1,477,000. All sectors of Advance Laundries contributed to this excellent result but the commercial services—Towelmaster cabinets, linen and garment hire and related services—again contributed over three-quarters of the profit.

The Vendmaster subsidiary, to which I referred last year and which provides hot and cold beverages from automatic machines, made useful progress. Another service which appears to have a promising future and complements the office cleaning facilities offered by the group, is the new "Dustmaster" mat-processing and hire service from the United States, which Advance Laundries has recently introduced in the London area. These new services are expected to be the most efficient of their kind in preventing the entry of dirt and moisture into buildings.

The cut of one-half in the rates of S.E.T. in July this year, was a welcome step by the Government towards the promised abolition of this tax but, unfortunately, the resultant saving will be more than offset by rises in the cost of materials and services and a pending increase in labour rates resulting from a recent award by the Laundry Wages Council.

Despite continuing increases in costs, I am hopeful that in the current year Advance Laundries will improve on its record profit of last year.

Plant Hire

In a highly competitive market, Edisson Plant and Grayston each successfully increased profits last year and, including a six months' contribution from the new subsidiary, J.D. White, the plant hire interests produced total pre-tax profits of £1,312,000.

The plant hire industry is presently suffering from the effects of the economic recession on the civil engineering and construction industries. Increasing capital and other costs and the withdrawal of investment grants have made the purchase of some types of construction plant uneconomic at the level of hire charges now prevailing, whilst the increased competition resulting from the lack of expansion in civil engineering and construction work is inhibiting plant hirers from raising charges to the levels needed to cover increasing costs.

Plant hire nevertheless remains basically a growth industry and the answer to the immediate problem lies in a greater and more balanced work programme for the civil engineering industry; under present conditions

this may take time to materialise. For that reason, our plant hire interests, whilst they should match their last year's performance, are not expected to show an increase in total profits in the current year.

Murphy Bros.

The opencast mining activities, which are the major part of Murphy Bros.' business, produced a useful improvement in pre-tax profit in the company's financial year to 30th November 1970. This improvement was, however, in part offset by a reduction in the contribution of the road haulage side of the business, where rapidly rising costs and keen competition made it difficult to maintain reasonable margins. Even so, Murphy Bros.' profit of £1,505,000, before tax, was a record for the company.

Rediffusion Television

I am pleased to say that when Rediffusion Television's accounts for the year which ended in July last, are prepared, they will show a considerable improvement due to an increase in the profits of Thames Television, in which Rediffusion Television has a 50 per cent shareholding. The halving by the Government in February this year of the levy on television advertising revenue and the subsequent increase in the level of advertising revenue itself are responsible for the improvement in Thames Television's position.

Rediffusion Holdings

For the year to 31st March 1971, the pre-tax profit of Rediffusion Holdings was £586,000, compared with £623,000 for the previous twelve months. The reduction in profit is attributable chiefly to lower earnings by Wembley Stadium, which had to meet considerable increases in costs, partially offset by an improvement in the earnings of Walpole, the other main operating subsidiary of the Rediffusion Holdings group. Walpole provides filmed entertainment on ships at sea and, for the fifth year running since the business was acquired, increased the number of ships it services, on this occasion by no less than 20 per cent.

A building lease has been granted by Wembley Stadium for the construction of a hotel at Wembley by the Esso Motor Hotel Group and this building is expected to be completed by March 1973. Negotiations are proceeding for detailed planning permission for the erection on Wembley Stadium's land of the conference centre and warehousing I referred to last year, and also office accommodation.

North Sea Interests

Last year, I mentioned that B.E.T. had taken a 5 per cent interest in a consortium formed by the Phillips Petroleum Company to search for oil in the United Kingdom section of the North Sea and that the consortium had been granted licences in respect of nine blocks, some of them jointly with The British Petroleum Company Limited. Seismic evaluation is still continuing and no drilling has yet taken place.

Under the latest round of licence applications invited by the British Government this summer, another consortium, formed by Phillips Petroleum, in which B.E.T. also has an interest, of 5 per cent or 7 per cent according to area, has applied for further blocks on the United Kingdom Continental Shelf.

Boulton & Paul

Twelve months ago, I referred to the considerable resurgence of business experienced by Boulton & Paul, particularly in the joinery and engineering activities, in the late spring and early summer of 1970. That increase in demand continued to accelerate at a remarkable rate and resulted in a profit, before tax, of £2,372,000 in respect of, on this occasion, an extended accounting period of eighteen months to 31st March 1971, in consequence of the change in the company's financial year-end. Of this pre-tax profit there has been included in B.E.T.'s Consolidated Profit and Loss Account an amount of £1,935,000, being that portion of the profit attributable to Boulton & Paul's operations in the twelve months ended 31st March last. Although the

periods are not strictly comparable, the profit of £1,935,000 taken into the Group Accounts may be contrasted with Boulton & Paul's pre-tax profit of £1,079,000 for the twelve months to 30th September 1969, and the previous record profit of £1,224,000 for the year to 30th September 1968.

The Boulton & Paul group continues to do well and even better results are expected for the current financial year.

Rediffusion

Although Rediffusion's trading results showed a considerable improvement in the year to 31st March last, the profit, before tax, of £6,391,000 was marginally less than that of the previous twelve months.

Owing to galloping inflation, costs advanced more rapidly than revenue and, whilst Rediffusion secured a good share of the new business in colour television sets, the growth in that market over the year was not as great as had been expected. There was also a substantial turn-round from interest received in the previous year to interest paid owing to the cost of servicing new investment, mainly in colour television sets.

Rediffusion's television set business in the United Kingdom, and the cable networks which support it, account for two-thirds of the group's profit. Colour television, despite its growth during the year having been slower than expected, still made a very appreciable contribution to that profit. Since the end of the year, the total removal by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in July of all controls on hiring and hire-purchase and the reduction he made in purchase tax, have stimulated tremendous public interest in colour television. With the big reduction it has been possible to make, without casting discretion aside, in the level of the initial payment, many more homes will be able to afford colour sets. It is too early yet to assess the effect in the long term but Rediffusion's colour television business is currently increasing rapidly.

Rediffusion Industrial Services, which provides pretty well every kind of communications installation, again had a record year in its rental business.

Rediffusion, Rediffusion's principal manufacturing company, achieved new records in turnover and exports but, disappointingly, the profits of its United Kingdom operations did not keep pace. Prospects for the communications and marine divisions in the current year are bright but the difficult liquidity position of some of the world's airlines is currently retarding the placing of orders for flight simulators.

It is not possible in this Review to do more than refer briefly to some of Rediffusion's many activities in communications and electronics. Suffice it to say that Rediffusion is a firmly based group with excellent potential and an active, forward-looking management.

Current Year

Shareholders may not appreciate the extent to which the pattern of B.E.T.'s interests has changed since the sale of our United Kingdom bus interests in 1968. In 1967, some 22 per cent of our net earnings came from passenger road transport at home—a declining industry. Today, with the £36 million sale proceeds reinvested, not only do we derive an increased income from a larger number of sources but our new businesses are in what we consider to be growth areas.

It was only in the past year that we really began to reap the benefits of the groundwork put into the development and expansion of the businesses in which we have invested our money. We should reap further benefits from the development and expansion of these interests in the current year.

Whilst I must make the usual qualification that any forecast could be rendered unrealistic by a deterioration in the national economy, it is my personal view that our profit for the current year, after tax and minority interests, should exceed £10,000,000.

Copies of the Report and Accounts, containing the Chairman's Review, can be obtained from The Secretary (MG), Boulton & Paul, Pilsbury, London, W1X 6AS.

The B.E.T. Group

Thomas Marshall Investments Limited

Highlights of 1970/71

- * Pre-Tax Profit £621,182 for 15 months against £335,213 for 12 months
- * Sales £9,591,421 against £5,985,737 for earlier period
- * Prospects—Dividends totalling 30% forecast for current year

The 1971 Report can be obtained from The Secretary at 18-20 Irwell Street, Manchester, M3 5FW.

WILKINS & MITCHELL LIMITED

Manufacturers of WILKINS & MITCHELL power presses and SERVIS washing machines

The following are extracts from the circulated statement of the Chairman, Mr J. C. Wilkins:

The year under review has been one of considerable activity which unfortunately is not truly reflected in the Group turnover which has only increased by 8%. The full realisation of the anticipated turnover was marred by an inter-union dispute which resulted in a strike lasting almost seven weeks.

The Group Profit before taxation of £340,217 is very disappointing. This situation arose not only from the fact that the Group was unable to realise its forecast turnover, but also due to the continuation of rising costs throughout the year.

SERVIS WASHING MACHINE DIVISION: We were unable to maintain our share of the Home Market during the period under review but this position has now been rectified. Towards the latter end of the year we introduced a Compact Tumbler Dryer which has been well received. Exports once again increased and the Service Department continues to make satisfactory progress. The division can only benefit from the Chancellor's reduction of purchase tax and the abolition of hire purchase restrictions.

WILKINS SERVIS PTY. LIMITED: Our Australian Subsidiary has had a successful year and is well placed to maintain its growth.

WILKINS & MITCHELL POWER PRESS AND MACHINE TOOL DIVISION: In spite of the great difficulties in the Power Press and Machine Tool Industry as a whole, this division has maintained a reasonable order book. Additional production facilities are now working satisfactorily and should enable us to take full advantage of any future improvement in this trade.

"WE HAVE solved the problem of the availability of consumer goods from the point of view of quantity. But if you want something for your own particular taste that is a different matter. The main problem facing our country is not to give everyone a product regardless of variety. We must follow peoples' tastes. This is providing a new pressure on our industry."

The man from the Ministry was exaggerating but one could see his point. Most families in Czechoslovakia have television sets, vacuum cleaners, and washing machines and food shops are well, if unimaginatively stocked.

Czech officials are, however, forced to admit that there are still very serious shortages of houses and cars.

The new five year plan is a compromise between expanding traditional Czech skills in heavy engineering (for balance of payments reasons) and satisfying the increasing demands of consumers. The Polish riots in December, 1970, are obviously not far from the Government's mind.

The efforts of the past 18 months to resuscitate the economy from the depression of the post-Dubcek period, appear at last to be succeeding. The purge of unreliable party members ("normalisation") which had a paralysing effect on industrial managers—they never knew when the axe might fall—is almost over.

Inertia among the workers caused by the fall of Dubcek, is slowly yielding to more practical considerations. Resistance and reluctance to work are receding, or rather going into hibernation.

The fifth five-year plan is both less rigid and less ambitious than some of its ill fated predecessors and its comparatively modest growth target of 5 per

VICTOR KEEGAN, who has been visiting Czechoslovakia, reports on prospects of the new five-year plan

A lesson in galloping without using spurs

cent a year is thought to have a better chance of success.

It marks a return from the flexible management-orientated policy of the Dubcek era to a system of quantitative planning. This involves an increase in the power of the Federal Government over the Czech and Slovak national governments, but so far there is no sign of a return to the rigid, over-centralised methods in operation before 1965.

Although the modest 5 per cent increase in national income is less than the average growth rate for the past 25 years, the going will not be easy since the country is still facing serious economic problems.

Czechoslovakia, a landlocked country, is chronically short of raw materials, especially fuel. Her pre-war industrial eminence has been slowly eroded and structural economic weaknesses (she produces too wide a range of goods, many of which are out of date, in under capitalised factories) are undermining her competitive position even in Eastern Europe.

To Czechoslovakia trade is vitally important yet the Government has to balance the need to develop capital intensive

industries like chemicals, power and construction against increasing demands for quality consumer goods (from cars to Camper) which are import-intensive.

About 95 per cent of the increased growth will have to come from increased productivity, since labour reserves, which were responsible for a large part of the recent rise in national income, are now largely exhausted.

Some improved efficiency, it is hoped, will result from the "dynamic" effects of membership of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance, the Iron Curtain Common Market.

Apart from this there is total reliance on improving the productivity of labour and raw materials. The Czechs are said to be the biggest consumers of energy (per capita) in the world—simply because so much is wasted. The five-year plan hopes to remedy this by such means as demanding higher quality iron ore from the Soviet Union and eliminating waste in power stations.

The Government is planning to increase the element of incentives in wages, but otherwise there is still considerable reliance on traditional methods of exhortation and work competitions to achieve higher output. This makes it difficult to judge whether the necessary increases in productivity will be achieved.

The five-year plan offers plenty of scope for Western exporters. The fastest growing sector will continue to be chemicals, where output is expected to increase by nearly 60 per cent by 1975.

Investment is to be concentrated on processing crude oil and on petrochemicals. Tyre production is expected to increase by 70 per cent and synthetic fibres and plastics to double. Engineering is to rise by 45 per cent.

Priority areas include construction (especially house building), semi-conductors and microelectronic elements (400 per cent), computer technology (output to be trebled), cars, trucks and automated machine tools.

The supply of fuel and power is planned to increase by only 19 per cent, which does not seem enough to support an

industrial production increase of 85 per cent in spite of substantial imports of electricity via the Comecon grid. It looks as though the power failures of recent winters will take some time to be eradicated.

A 30 per cent rise in retail trade is planned with sales of industrial consumer goods rising faster than food. The rising emphasis on supply labour saving devices to release a greater number of women for the industrial labour force.

Czechoslovakia has one of the worst housing records of any European country—as even Prague Radio has admitted. There is a 7 per cent waiting list, yet the annual target of 100,000 homes a year, set in 1958, has yet to be reached.

Western observers would be surprised if the five year target of 500,000 houses is met, though clearly the Czechs are putting an increasing amount of effort into achieving success.

A central aim of the five year plan is to improve the standard of living which is still too low—though meaningful comparisons with the West are difficult. An average worker in industry earns 2,000 crowns a month, which at the official exchange rate of 17 to the £ is low by British standards. A standard Czech car costs about 2½ years' salary.

However cars are exceptionally expensive in Czechoslovakia. They represent the biggest purchase in a worker's life, akin to buying a house in other lands. Rents on the other hand are extremely cheap, taxes are low (maximum 32 per cent) and there are plenty of fringe benefits like cheap holidays and child allowances.

But there are no signs of complacency. The Government knows that the most important it is to deliver the goods during the coming five years.

Cadbury interim profit rises

First half results from Cadbury Schweppes show £889,000 rise to £7,647,000 unchanged interim dividend of 44 per cent. The Group share price 1½p to close at 67½p.

The chairman, Viscount Atkinson, says that the year figures "represent the first benefits" of the full merged operations across the whole of the company's activities. He points out in his interim report: "At a time when rationalisation is still proceeding, increases of 7 per cent in turnover and 13 per cent in profit before tax and a satisfactory performance against difficult market conditions."

He says that the confectionery and overseas groups are leading the company in providing the increased benefits forecast at the time of the merger, and that the progress made during the first half has been continued in the period up to mid-August. Looking ahead to the year end, Viscount Atkinson says as far as the sectors the economy in which the company operates are concerned there are, as yet, not very clear signs of expansion following Government measures.

Good first time for Wimpey

First half profits of Geom Wimpey, the building and engineering contractors, rose from £5 millions to £5.2 million before tax in the six months ended June last.

For 1970 the pre-tax profit was £6.1 million before tax of £2 million and before exception items. The volume of work carried out in the first half of 1971 was greater than in the same period last year, says the group, and adds that the volume of work in hand remains at a high level.

Ladbroke raises Arbitrator offer

Ladbroke Group announces yesterday it has raised its offer for Arbitrator and Weston, a bingo, bowling centres and casino group, from £13 million to £18 million.

Last week the Arbitrator board rejected Ladbroke's first offer as inadequate and forecast substantial increase in profit for the current year. Ladbroke now intends to offer terms worth 70p per Arbitrator share against their first bid 50p.

Rivals for the chair

Shareholders of Hartley-Baldry group saw two rival chairmen clash at a special meeting yesterday called to clarify the position over the election of directors.

Ginger group specialist, Mr Martin Moir at one time apparently took control of the meeting—but not without a strong protest from Dr Wallersteiner, the company chairman.

The company's legal representative claimed Dr Wallersteiner was still chairman and

the meeting had been called only to put the matter beyond doubt.

Mr Moir succeeded in getting a show of hands voting in favour of a nominee, but Dr Wallersteiner then went ahead and proposed his own re-election together with the other two directors, Mr A. Stoff and Mr Ronald Moore.

Poll votes were taken to settle just who are the company's directors, but the results will not be known until today.

Associated Portland profit up £4M in first half

An increase of more than £4 million in pre-tax profit in the first half of this year, plus the promise of a higher dividend, came yesterday from Associated Portland Cement, Britain's biggest cement firm.

Pre-tax profit for the six months to the end of June has soared from £5,584,000 to £10,983,000.

Shareholders are told that the year's dividends will total at least 13 per cent compared with the previous year's pay out of 11.5 per cent.

The directors, headed by Sir John Reiss, said the jump in profit was due partly to price increases but also to rationalisation of production. Total deliveries of cement in the UK this year are not expected to exceed last year's levels.

larger improvement which would show up later in the year. Trading conditions were "buoyant" they said.

Stanley Gibbons loses £11,000

Stanley Gibbons, the stamp dealer, showed a net loss of £11,000 in the first six months of this year when its business was hit by the postal strike.

A spokesman said this was because the greater part of its business is conducted by mail. In the corresponding six months of last year, there was a net profit of nearly £35,000.

The directors have decided not to pay an interim dividend, but they are expecting better figures in the second half. On the London Stock Exchange the shares fell 5p to 35½p.

Lead Industries maintains interim

Lead Industries is to maintain its interim dividend at 3.5 per cent but profits have fallen from £4.14 millions to £3.39 millions pre-tax for the six months ended June.

The directors explain that profits on the metallurgical side were significantly reduced because of the substantial fall in antimony and lead prices this year.

Current trading, the board says, is not much different from that in the first half.

BARCLAYS BANK DCO

An Extraordinary General Meeting of Barclays Bank DCO was held at 54 Lombard Street, London, E.C.3, on Monday, 20th September, 1971.

Sir Frederic Seebohm, Chairman of the Bank, presided. The Meeting passed the three Special Resolutions put to the Meeting which:

- (a) sanctioned the cancellation of 10,000,000 Ordinary £1 shares which had not been issued;
 - (b) gave assent for Barclays Bank DCO, a Company incorporated by private Act of Parliament, to be registered under the Companies Act, 1948, and
 - (c) approved the change of the Bank's name to Barclays Bank International Limited.
- Subject to further consents necessary the new name will be adopted with effect from the 1st October, 1971.

ASSOCIATED TELEVISION CORPORATION

"Another highly satisfactory year..."



Lord Renwick of Coombe, KBE, Chairman

The 16th Annual General Meeting of Associated Television Corporation Limited was held in London on 23rd September, 1971. The following are extracts from the statement by the Chairman, Lord Renwick of Coombe, KBE, for the year ended 28th March, 1971:

This has been another highly satisfactory year; and one that holds great promise for the future.

For the third time in its history, your Corporation has been honoured by the Queen's Award for Export Achievement.

Firstly I will refer to the improved position in which your subsidiary Company, ATV Network Ltd., finds itself. During eleven of the twelve months under review the whole television industry was still labouring under the load of the high-rate Television Advertising Levy. In that single year ATV Network had, apart altogether from normal Corporation Tax, to pay a Levy of no less than £3,865,000. It was to this level of forfeiture that I was referring in my last Statement when I said that if the rate of Levy were not reduced, Independent Television would no longer be commercially viable.

I therefore wish publicly to express my thanks to Lord Aylestone and the Authority for all that they did in presenting the facts of the case to the Government. It is not too much to say that the resultant action of the Minister in amending the scale on which the Levy is extracted from the advertising revenue of the Companies prevented inevitable financial collapse within certain sections of the industry.

Bearing in mind the current buoyancy in advertising revenue and the reduced rate at which the Levy is now operative, it is possible to view the future of the Network Company with a degree of confidence that would have been quite unthinkable a year ago.

Broadcasting Hours

It is a source of further encouragement that the awaited permission for further broadcasting hours cannot now be long delayed. ATV Network is already fully equipped to provide the programmes. All that is needed is the Minister's approval. Also, at the moment, only the BBC offers a dual service. There is no reason whatsoever why this should be so. It is wholly within the competence of the industry as it is at present constituted to provide ITV 2, and your Directors will continue to press for this highly desirable extension of the national broadcasting service.

Film Production

The current schedule of production is the strongest in the Company's history and overseas sales—notably to the American networks and to Australia—have reached a level never previously achieved.

ATV Centre

The ATV Centre in Birmingham, of which the Network studios occupy a third of the total site area, is in itself a major piece of civic development. It represents an investment in excess of £12 million. Building operations have throughout been most commendably on schedule, and the whole complex of office block, hotel, exhibition hall, restaurant and shops will be revenue earning by 1973.

Stoll Theatres

ATV is proud of its position in the theatrical world. Stoll Theatres under the chairmanship of Mr. Prince Litter has enjoyed a most excellent year. In total, half-a-million more tickets were sold at the box office than in the previous year and the profit figure improved by £98,000.

Music

ATV is equally proud of the position which it occupies in the world of music and music-publishing. The new management of your wholly-owned subsidiary company, Northern Songs, is certainly to be congratulated on its success. Moreover, the jointly-owned Company, ATV-Kelmar, has now established a world-wide organisation that is trading profitably in 14 countries.

Similarly, Pye Records which has steadily earned an increasing share of the disc market shows continuing improved results. The profit figure for music and records of over £1,800,000 is substantially higher than earlier it had been felt safe to estimate.

Audio and Video Cassettes

Looking to the future when the use of audio cassettes will become wide-spread both in the home and in the car, your Board felt it wise to acquire the whole share capital of Precision Tapes Ltd., previously owned only 50 per cent by the Group. Already the sales of cassettes produced by this Company are mounting most encouragingly.

Again, in order to keep level with technical innovation your Corporation has entered the rapidly expanding market for video cassettes—the device which enables programmes of the viewer's own choice to be shown on the home television screen. The potential here is enormous and, to exploit to the full the global opportunities which the video cassette offers, ATV has entered into 50-50 partnership with one of the three great American networks, the American Broadcasting Company. The entire programme resources of entertainment, information and education of both organisations have been pooled. It is an acknowledgment of the unique standing of this new Anglo-American enterprise that the National Theatre Company in London should have granted it the exclusive video cassette rights of the National Theatre productions.

Independent Radio

Finally, for the future development of the Corporation, ATV has announced that it will seek to be active in Commercial Broadcasting as soon as legislation permits. ATV will both apply for a licence in its own right and in conjunction with newspapers, and will be ready and equipped to supply full programme services to other operators.

Summary

The Group, now widely diversified within the whole field of entertainment as well as in property, is both more securely based and more capable of further development than ever before in its history.

It is here that I must pay tribute to the one man more than any other has made it so. When, for the third time, the Corporation was honoured with the Queen's Award for Export Achievement, it was once more recognition of the fact that Sir Lew Grade is the master-seller of the entire television industry. But it was more than that. It was also a recognition of the fact that Sir Lew is television's supreme impresario. Indeed, his singleness of purpose, his energy and his far-sightedness are displayed in every aspect of the Corporation's activities.

Management and Staff

I will close by saying on behalf of the Board how grateful I am to members of Management and Staff at all levels in Birmingham, Epsom and London, as well as to our Corporation colleagues abroad in New York, Toronto, Sydney, Paris and Lausanne.

Comparative Figures	1970	1971
Total Group Turnover	£36,713	£37,631
Net Television Advertising Revenue	13,819	14,255
Less: Levy	4,534	3,865
Group Profit before tax	5,301	4,914
Dividend Cost	2,709	2,709
Profit after tax and outside shareholders' interests	3,860	4,319
Earnings per 'A' Ordinary 25p stock unit	10.37p	11.54p
Total shareholders' funds	26,350	27,936

Training 'neglect' alleged

Industrial relations training for managers is being seriously neglected, a report says today.

A British Institute of Management working party found that "Middle managers often have a startling lack of knowledge of their own companies' industrial relations organisations and policies."

Lack of clarity about industrial relations policies and responsibilities at different levels and functions of management is often a major impediment to good industrial relations. Managers who are unaware of their precise responsibilities and authority for industrial relations matters cannot be expected to make their most effective contribution to good employee relations.

The working party often found that disputes and grievances, which should have been resolved at their level, "escalated unnecessarily". The report says management should be trained to recognise symptoms of worsening industrial relations. It recommends that: managers' job descriptions should specify industrial relations responsibilities; companies should develop policies to control and review methods of negotiation and pay structures; and they should establish guides to their personnel policy and, where appropriate, written procedures and agreements.

Mr John Arkell, the institute's vice-chairman, warned a news conference in London about strikes which damaged industrial relations.

Mr Arkell, who chaired the study group, said: "Unions seem to think in terms of the strike weapon right at the beginning, rather than as a last resort."

Management and workers could not reach satisfactory agreements fairly if this happened.

He said the group felt their recommendations "should quite substantially reduce" friction and industrial trouble, if firms adopted them.

THE STEEL GROUP LIMITED

CRANE & EXCAVATOR MANUFACTURERS AND ENGINEERS
RECORD TURNOVER & PROFITS

REVIEW BY MR. A. G. HOWE

The Thirty-fourth Annual General Meeting of The Steel Group Limited was held on September 23rd at Sunderland. The following are extracts from the review by the Chairman Mr. A. G. Howe.

The profit earned in the Financial Year ended 31st March 1971 amounted to £3,352,103, again the highest in its history and compared with its earnings of £2,165,505 in 1969/70.

This arose from a very substantial increase in turnover, progressive product rationalisation and a marked improvement in the overall achievement of Coles Crane in the United Kingdom and of your Company's overseas subsidiaries.

The year was one of considerable opportunity, in which a significant number of large contracts, secured against formidable competition, were worked to full advantage.

Taxes on earnings and on internal distributions amounted to £1,424,063—a charge from the reduction in the rate of United Kingdom Corporation Tax coupled with the offset against the profit of Coles Crane of earlier losses brought forward.

In my Review of the Accounts for 1967/68 I referred to your Directors' opinion that because of the historical weights which had attended manufacture and profitability was warranted.

Notwithstanding this philosophy, which is still pertinent, and in view of the amount of the profit earned in the year, your Directors now recommend that a Final Dividend of 15% should be paid on the Ordinary Share Capital which, with the interim year's total Dividend of 22½%, this distribution will compare with last

No changes occurred in the Share Capital of your Company which remained at £2,474,125 but capital and revenue reserves increased from £5,930,289 to £7,073,135.

The Group Turnover increased from £26,266,980 in 1969/70 to £37,631,302 in the year. The value of exports from the United Kingdom rose from £8,018,053 to £15,470,345 and represented 40% of your Company's business carried out from the United Kingdom.

The drive towards a greater share of business in the United Kingdom and a greater export content of total turnover will continue in order to consolidate and enlarge further your Company's international trading position and market strength.

Presently the Group's order books are somewhat lower than at this time last year, partly as the result of the rate of production which was set up to overcome lengthening delivery schedules and partly because of a slackening in the input of orders resulting in a temporary reduction in output from its short duration. Nevertheless, this will result in a satisfactory proportion of it should be secured on acceptable terms. Profit for the first half of the current financial year should be marginally above that of the comparable period last year. Profit in the second half is not so predictable, but if the comparable now in negotiation and other prospective business are concluded successfully another worthwhile trading result should be achieved for the year as a whole.

The Report and Accounts were adopted.

Increased profit and dividend from GRE

Guardian Royal Exchange Profit before tax is \$8.5 million, compared with \$5.4 million in 1970, and the board last year, has produced a composite increase in profits of 55 per cent. There has been a marked improvement in the first six months of 1971.

Cadbury Schweppes LIMITED

INTERIM STATEMENT FOR 1971

The Directors have declared an Interim Dividend of 4½% (same) on the Ordinary Stock, less tax at 38.75%.

The Dividend will be paid on 6 December 1971 to Stockholders on the Register of Members at the close of business on 8 November 1971.

	First Half 1971	1970 (adjusted Note 1)
	£000's	£000's
Group turnover	24 weeks... £129,661	24 weeks... £121,671
Group trading profit	9,203	8,611
Exceptional items	—	(441)
Investment income	9,203	8,170
Interest payable	139	219
Profit before taxation	9,342	8,389
Estimated taxation	1,695	1,631
	7,647	6,758
Profit attributable to minority interests	3,420	3,234
	4,227	3,524
Profit attributable to Cadbury Schweppes Ltd	156	285
Dividends	4,071	3,239
Profit retained	2,340	2,340
	£1,731	£899

NOTES:

1. The interim results for 1970 have been adjusted for the purpose of comparison in respect of the following:

- The change in the accounting dates of the subsidiaries in Australia and South Africa at the end of 1970 so that the results now conform with the other companies in the Group. (The 1970 annual accounts included the results of Schweppes Australia and Schweppes South Africa for periods of 18 and 19 months respectively.)
- The sale of the McColl retail interests in October 1970.
- The profit before taxation of associated companies attributable to Cadbury Schweppes Ltd is £32,000 compared with a loss of £10,000 in the same period last year. These results are not included in the statement.

These half year figures represent the first benefits of fully merged operations across the whole of our Company. Also for 1971 it has been possible to draw up the interim accounts on a consistent time scale for all companies. As a result comparisons with the first half of 1970 need amendment and this is dealt with in the notes attached to the interim figures. At a time when rationalisation is still proceeding, increases of 7% in turnover and 13% in profit before tax mark a satisfactory performance against difficult market conditions.

Your business is on the whole meeting its profit targets with Confectionery and Overseas Groups leading the Company in providing the increased benefits foreseen at the time of the merger. Progress made at the half year has been continued in the period up to mid August. We have now merged our Cake operations in a new joint company with United Biscuits Ltd. (McVitie and Cadbury Cakes Ltd.). Further streamlining of our food manufacturing facilities is proceeding and the closure of our Kirkby meat packing plant has been announced. Results in Foods are not up to budget, although this has to be set against a generally depressed total food market.

Shareholders should know that we have donated £10,000 to the "Keep Britain Tidy" movement. To meet the demands of our customers and those of normal urban living conditions it is inevitable that new forms of packaging of all kinds will constantly be introduced. This trend does not create litter until packaging material or containers are thoughtlessly disposed of, and we hope that all shareholders will join with us in supporting the "Keep Britain Tidy" campaign.

Looking ahead to the year end, and our important Christmas trade, much depends on whether a real expansion of the economy follows the measures taken by the Government. So far as the sectors of the economy in which your Company operates are concerned, there are as yet no very firm signs of such expansion. Your Company is now at a level of efficiency where full advantage can be taken of all trading opportunities and we shall certainly get our full share of increased trade if expansion really comes.

For the future we are now planning on the assumption that Britain will be a member of an enlarged European community. This will offer your Company considerable scope for further profitable development in Europe without in any way inhibiting development elsewhere in the world. In this regard it will be important that the Government's proposals for a value added tax are in harmony with the EEC.

The Rt Hon Viscount Watkinson PC CH
Chairman

Otherham Investment Trust Limited

(Made public 23rd March 1970)

Capital at 31st March 1971	Authorized	Issued
Shares of 20p	1,250,000	570,000
Shares of 20p	1,250,000	570,000
"A" Ordinary shares carry all dividend rights.		
"B" Ordinary shares have no dividend rights but receive capitalisation issues of further "B" Shares at an annual rate of 5% of the net asset value at the conclusion of each financial year.		
Following are extracts from the accounts and Chairman's report circulated before the A.G.M. held on the 13th November 1971.		
Value before taxation for year to 31st March 1971	£14,803	
Value after taxation for year to 31st March 1971	£8,607	
Value of Dividends on "A" shares at 11% (10½% forecast)	£7,587	
Value balance at 31st March 1971	£2,712	
Shareholders received, under the formula set out in Articles, a scrip issue of 58,533 Shares in total or approximately one share for every 10 Shares held. Net asset value at 31st August 1971 was 48.75p cum "B" Scrip issue.		
Geographical breakdown of the portfolio as at the 31st March 1971 was approximately as follows:		
U.K.	83.50%	
U.S.A.	8.00%	
Japan	2.30%	
Others	6.30%	
	100%	

The Company is quoted on the Northern Stock Exchange, on the 13th September 1971 quotations were given as: Shares 28-35p. "B" Shares 40-45p cum scrip.

Details of the latest Annual Report & Accounts are available from Williams & Glyn's Bank Ltd, 1 King William Street, London E.C.4.

Ellerman crashes £1.6M into red

Ellerman Lines, the passenger and cargo shipping group, crashed deeply into the red with a pre-tax loss for 1970 of £1,605,000, against a pre-tax profit of £783,000 the previous year.

The group showed a trading loss of £2,746,000, compared with a loss of £45,000 in 1969, but this was offset by investment profit and other income of £1,141,000 (£1,128,000 in 1969).

Chairman, Mr D. F. Martin-Jenkins, said the poor results stemmed mainly from unparallelled increases in operating costs and the exceptional impact of the UK dock strikes and the introduction of the second phase of the Devlin labour scheme.

The chairman pointed out that the group's properties had a market value of about £5 million above book value.

Marred advance by British Oxygen

The advance made by British Oxygen in the nine months to the end of June was whittled down at the attributable level because of sharply higher interest payments and a slight increase in taxation. Trading profits rose from £19.5 million to £22 million and sales amounted to £176 million.

Interest charges went up by 42 per cent to £5.73 million because British Oxygen has to finance the acquisitions it made last year and pay interest on the new 11 per cent debenture stock.

The first half of the year was marred by a downturn in the metal cycle and poor sales of welding equipment. It now seems likely that the metal cycle will bottom out later this year and that sales of other equipment will rise in line with the economic recovery in Britain.

Wire group's profit ahead 56 pc

Richard Johnson and Nephew, the wire manufacturing group which is controlled by Jessel Securities, has reported pre-tax profit of £2.8 million for the 15 months to the end of June. On an annual basis this represents a 56 per cent increase on the previous year.

The board has declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent, which together with previous dividends makes an annual rate of 17.6 per cent. Directors intend to at least maintain the dividend in the current year.

Last May Richard Johnson and Nephew acquired John Rigby and Sons. The new acquisition made a purely nominal contribution in the current year but is expected to contribute around £250,000 to £300,000 annually from this year.

Stocklake raises total payout

Stocklake Holdings, whose interests range from exporting and importing to steel stockholding and hire purchase finance, has increased its total dividend for 1970-1 by 1½ points to 17 per cent after a 588,282 increase in profits.

The group's pre-tax profit was £1,530,000, including £408,000 from Rhodesia, against £944,857, including £244,000 from Rhodesia, the previous year. The profits earned in Rhodesia are currently not remittable to this country.

Bank of Scotland maintains growth

Bank of Scotland maintained its recent substantial earnings growth during the first half of the current year and pre-tax profit increased by just over 20 per cent to £5 million.

The board, however, is to maintain interim dividend at 9 per cent because as yet it is not sure what will be the effects of the Bank of England's new measures on credit control and competition.

The higher profit, the directors say, stems from the further expansion of the group's business and sustained efforts to increase efficiency.

BICC earnings rise 30 pc

A substantial increase in earnings by British Insulated Callender's Cables sent the shares up 12p to 189p on Tuesday.

Pre-tax profit was up 30 per cent to £13.4 million for the six months ended June in spite of an 8 per cent fall in sales to £208 million. The board is to raise the interim dividend from 4½ per cent to 5 per cent.

The chairman, Lord McFadden, explains that sales fell because of the drop in metal prices this year.

Bovis slump hits share price

Disappointing interim figures from construction group Bovis Holdings sent the share price sliding yesterday.

Profit before tax for the six months to June was £817,000 (against £960,000 previously). The interim dividend is steady at 8 per cent. Profit after tax attributable to ordinary shareholders was £634,000 against £478,000.

The board remarks that the profit for the first half takes into account an operating deficit from the group's Canadian subsidiary. But it adds that each trading division is operating at a very satisfactory level and that growth can be expected in 1972.

Profit jump for Carpets Int

Carpets International, Europe's largest carpet manufacturer, has reported a sharp improvement in the first half of this year. Pre-tax profits have risen from £485,000 to £697,000 on a turnover that went up by less than £2 million to £21 million.

The results were achieved through internal reorganisation which included the reduction in the work force from 8,255 at the end of the last financial year to 7,783 now. The other factors were the cutting out of the less profitable lines and improvements at loss making subsidiaries. The usual split between the two halves of the year is 40/60 but it seems almost certain that with the better trend continuing, the second half will be considerably better.

Company reports to September 22

Interim results

Bourne and Hollingsworth: 4 per cent (3.5 per cent). Turnover £2,086,764 (£1,999,010). Pre-tax profit £77,742 (£19,994).

British Vita: 10 per cent (equivalent 10 per cent). Turnover £9,181,000 (£8,410,000). Pre-tax profit £881,000 (£815,000). Tax takes £98,000 (£94,000).

Cable Investment Trust: 6½ pc (8½ pc).

Crane Franchise Traders: 5 pc (4pc). Sales £9,987,000 (£9,598,000). Pre-tax profit £514,000 (£728,000). Tax takes £200,000 (£238,000).

Excess Holdings: 10 per cent (same). Group interest and dividends received—excluding excess life assurance—£793,000 (£770,000).

Insurance Income: £11.4 million (£11.8 million). Loss for motor insurance company £182,000 (£31,000) before taking into account investment income.

Harris and Sheldon Group: 4 pc (same). Group turnover £7,149,000 (£6,755,000). Pre-tax profit £236,000 (£210,000).

Harvey Plant Holdings: 14 pc (12.5 per cent). Group pre-tax profit £310,000 (£282,000). Tax £117,000 (£124,000).

Higgs and Hill: 7 per cent (same). Pre-tax profit £245,000 (£297,000). Tax takes £138,000 (£135,650).

Jalloway: Turnover £777,586 (£822,154). Loss £204,739 (loss £24,310).

Metaltrax (Holdings): 15 pc (12.5 per cent). Turnover £20,178 (£17,441). Tax takes £31,751 (£29,614).

Parle Bros. Holdings: 5 per cent (same). Pre-tax profit £381,000 (£341,000). Tax and minority interest £153,000 (£139,000). Pre-tax profit £228,000 (£202,000).

L. Ryan Holdings: 10 per cent (8 per cent). Turnover £1,568,000 (£1,484,000). Pre-tax profit £180,000 (£170,000).

£115,000 (£233,000) tax £128,000 (£99,000).

Trinidad Canadian Oils: 7½ pc (same). Sales £7,781,422 (£7,704,899). Operating surplus £646,252 (£577,758) and tax £49,754 (£18,033). Deduct minority loss £28,740 (£24,143) leaving net surplus £517,468 (£535,648).

Wadhams Strangers: 5 pc (same). Pre-tax profit £501,000 (£408,000). Tax takes £200,400 (£192,000).

Minorities: £6,879 (£10,883). Board looks forward to further increase in profits for full year.

J. H. Vassavase: 5 per cent (equivalent to 4½ per cent). Pre-tax profit £228,000 (£268,000). Tax takes £182,000 (£181,000). Minorities £42,000 (£1,000).

Final results

Broken Hill South: 4 cents making 7 cents (14 cents). Consolidated net profit: £32,607,900 (£37,391,000).

Crest Homes: 25 per cent making 40 per cent (32 per cent). One-for-one free scrip issue also planned. Pre-tax profit: £206,000 (£225,000). Tax takes £229,000 (£230,000).

George H. Scholes: 10 per cent making 15 per cent (11 per cent). Group profit: £846,499 (£831,043) after tax of £438,000 (£420,000).

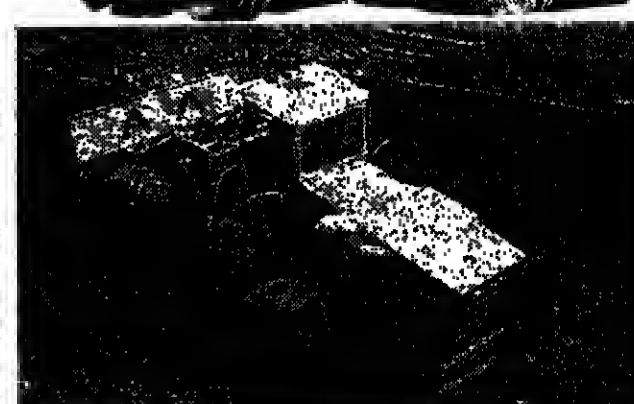
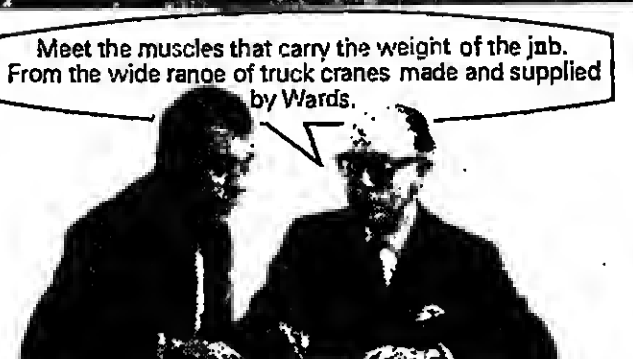
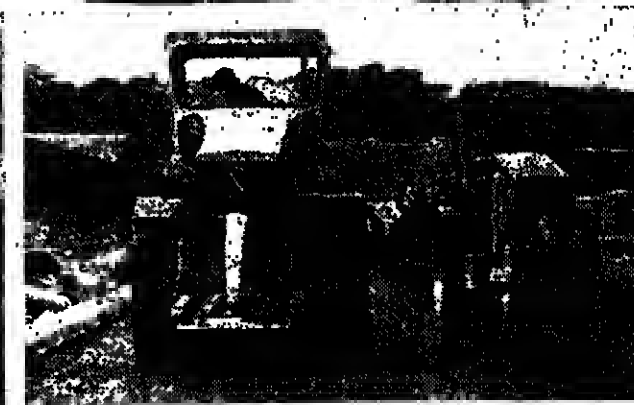
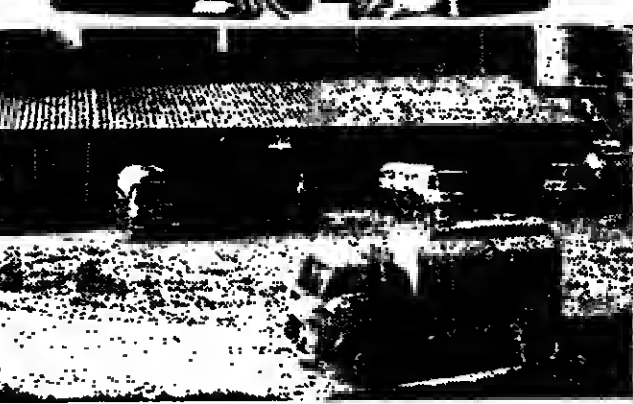
Lawdon (made public June 1971): 15 pc as forecast. Net profit £108,412 (£108,888) after tax of £107,668 (£83,885).

Matthew Clark and Sons: 9 pc (against forecast of 7 pc) making 15 pc (12 pc). Pre-tax profit: £331,679 (£319,543). Tax takes £257,384 (£152,397).

Wades Departmental Stores: 7 per cent making 12 per cent (10 per cent). Scrip issue of 1 non-voting "A" ordinary share for every 4 ordinary or "A" ordinary shares held. Net profit: £213,800 (£122,761) after tax of £163,865 (£138,165).

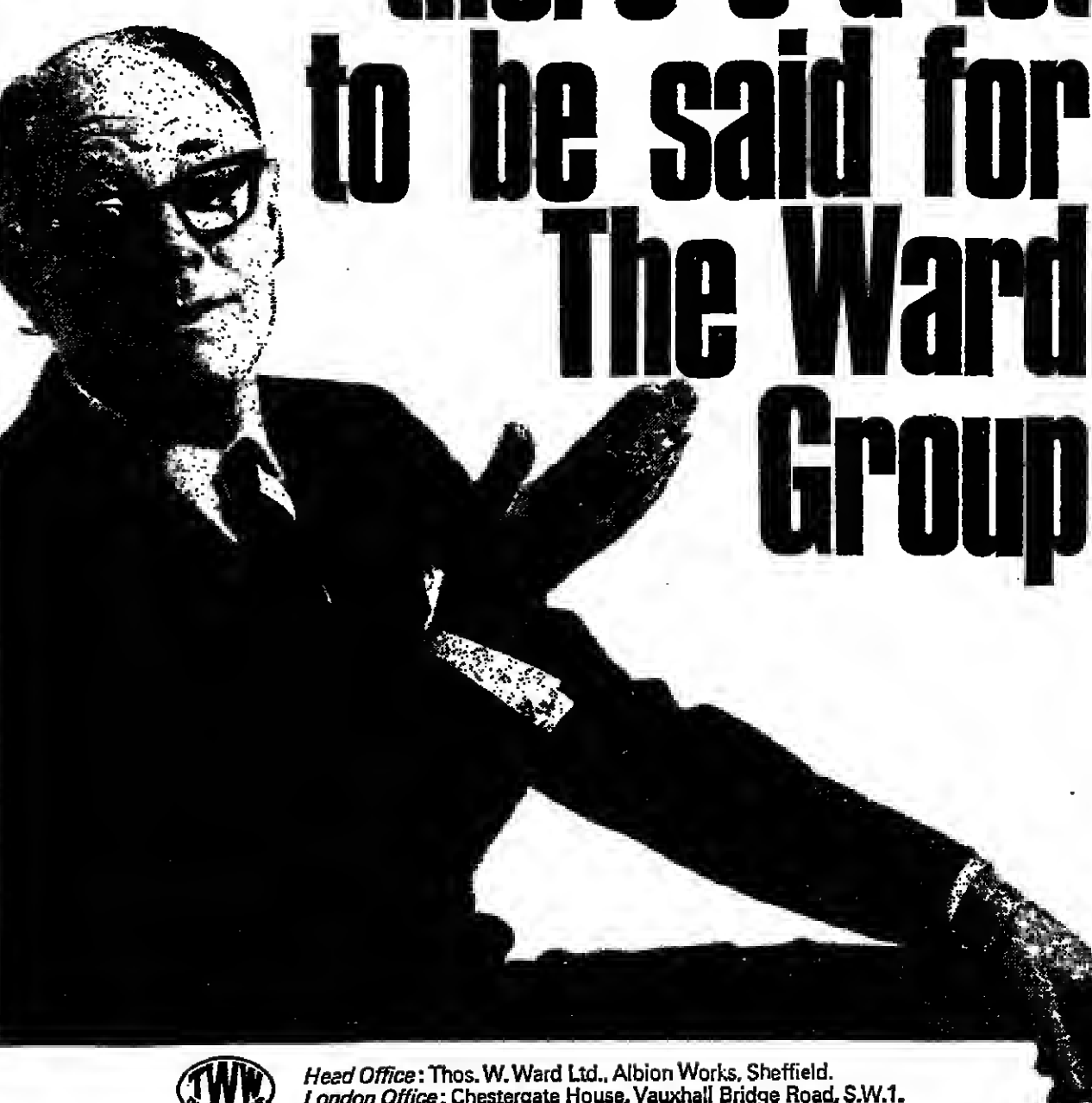
Warren Tea Holdings: 5 per cent (same). Pre-tax profit: £490,400 (£469,133). Tax takes £130,740 (£102,700).

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IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY...

there's a lot to be said for The Ward Group



Head Office: Thos. W. Ward Ltd., Albion Works, Sheffield.
London Office: Chestergate House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.1.

When the tenants are made anxious

By Michael Lake

AN INCREASING number of councils is becoming concerned about pressure on tenants to vacate property which does not constitute harassment within the meaning of the 1965 Rent Act, but which frequently causes tenants anxiety and even ill-health.

The deputy-leader of the Islington Borough Council, Mr Gerry Southgate, complained this week of "harassment within the law". Mr Southgate has raised the question of pressure on tenants in Islington with the Department of the Environment, which administers the Rent Act. He says:

"What is happening is quite within the law, but it shows that pressure can be brought to bear on people. The council has this situation under active consideration."

After a series of incidents in Pimlico, the Westminster City Council has asked the Government to tighten the law against harassment, and has issued leaflets informing residents of their rights.

The Minister for Housing and Construction, Mr Julian Amery, is to meet the Inner London boroughs next month to hear their reports on harassment and prosecutions.

But the Department of the Environment and local councils agree that prosecutions are extremely difficult to pursue, particularly for want of testimony from tenants who are frequently too old and nervous, or too ignorant, to understand the situation.

The Islington council, which has the highest record for harassment prosecutions in the country, has asked the recently-formed Canonbury Tenants' Association for evidence of harassment, but the Association's chairman, Mr Edward Hurst, who has himself been

asked to move house, says he cannot produce evidence.

The association, however, claims after a survey of 80 properties on the Canonbury estate that it found 30 households were worried about their situation, their concern ranging from a general anxiety to cases "verging on nervous collapse."

In Canonbury, the estate agents, David Pinto and Company, of Dover Street, Piccadilly, have asked tenants of several large houses in Willowbridge Road, Alwyne Road, Canonbury, Park North, and St Paul's Road, to move to alternative accommodation in Wallase Road.

Houses in Wallase Road are being converted into flats and present residents in Wallase Road are being asked to move up or down the street into converted flats to enable conversion work to proceed.

The dappled streets on the south of the Canonbury estate—once owned by the Marquis of Northampton—are clearly more desirable to live in than Wallase Road. But the chief complaint to emerge from a dossier on canvassed households is that the alternative accommodation is too small, involves sharing facilities, and cuts off access to gardens.

The association claims that of 23 households offered alternative accommodation, 18 have refused. Mr Pinto says that 12 are currently being offered alternative accommodation, and that nine others have already accepted new accommodation.

Mr Pinto, meanwhile, has summonses out against six households which the association says have been adjudged since the move and are thus left hanging over the residents' heads. Mr Pinto says that two are against occupants who are in no way the legal tenants, one was against a man who had a massive case

of dry rot in his house and had rejected two offers of three-roomed flats with kitchen and bathroom, and the other three had not indicated why they refused their offers of alternative accommodation.

At 25 Alwyne Road, there are two large "For Sale" notices at the entrance, and a note is pinned to the front door: "This house is not empty." The house is advertised for £25,000.

Next door two women aged more than 80 who have both been asked to move to 3 Wallase Road, where a woman, aged 80, is already in the basement—newly re-decorated and plumbed—where another married couple are also being asked to move from further down Wallase Road.

Both these women seemed prepared to move if they could have things a little better, and both were clearly worried. Mrs Dorothy Parsons, who plays a piano in a pub, would not be able to get her own piano into the flat offered. She would no longer be able to have her grown-up family to stay with her at weekends, and as she always works then she cannot get to Kent to see them. She is prepared to see her sister-in-law, who has lived with her for 20 years, move to the family house in Kent, but she would still have to dispose of a lifetime's furniture and belongings. Mrs Parsons says: "If I had an extra, bigger room, I'd be able to say 'yes'."

Other prospective tenants have refused on the advice of their own solicitors to accept the alternative accommodation since, they say, it cuts their present living space in half. Pinto and Co. has served a writ.

At 1 Willowbridge Road, Mrs Barbara Sessions, her husband, and two children live with her mother, who is the legal tenant. She says that the Pinto firm has not accepted any rent since last August in spite of a "Fair

Rent" assessment. The family banks its rent, but remains worried.

Mr and Mrs R. J. Simmons, of 9 Willowbridge Road, are in their eighties. They live in a damp, 100-year-old, 10-room house and consider the idea that they should move to 28 Wallase Road, which is under conversion, to be preposterous. A court order against them has been adjourned. Mr Simmons says that Mr Pinto has told him the house he lives in is valued at £20,000.

In Wallase Road, Mr Hurst, chairman of the Tenants' Association, says: "It seems wrong that we should have to put up with this upheaval at our time of life for the sake of quick profit. We saw this in Barnsbury. We're not having it here."

Mr Southgate, who is chairman of Islington's Town Planning and Development Committee, says: "Mr Pinto wants to move people round like so many units. But they are human beings."

Mr John Grant, MP for Islington East, believes that Mr Pinto and the tenants' association have achieved a new measure of genuine consultation. He says that since the election of a Labour council and the formation of the association, Mr Pinto has modified "a somewhat high-handed attitude."

Rent Act 1965, Part III
30.—(2) If any person with intent to cause the residential occupier of any premises

(a) to give up the occupation of the premises or any part thereof; or
(b) to refrain from exercising any right or pursuing any remedy in respect of the premises or part thereof; does acts calculated to interfere with the peace or comfort of the residential occupier or members of his household, or persistently withdraws or withholds services reasonably required for the occupation of the premises as a residence, he shall be guilty of an offence.

Kelly drops bid for UCS

By JOHN KERR

Mr Archibald Kelly, the Scottish industrialist, yesterday withdrew his bid for the Clydebank yard of Upper Clyde Shipbuilders, and the process cast grave doubt on the future of all four yards in the group.

He said that a financial study of the orders allocated to the Clydebank division of UCS showed that if he had taken over the yard with existing contracts for five ships, he would have incurred a loss of near £5 millions.

Mr Kelly was also highly critical of the actions of ship stewards who had proposed in the attitude that they had to remain intact in present form. He said that his negotiations had been very no encouragement from Government, from local authorities, and local members of Parliament on Clydebank, nor from workers in the yards.

Another major stumbling block had arisen in discussions with shipowners on the price of work, and Mr Kelly said that this had proved extremely difficult.

Mr Kelly said that the problems were likely to confront the new company set up this week to take over Govan and Linthouse yards with Government backing.

Mr Kelly's financial adviser, Mr James C. Sharp, said it was no reasonable shipowner would have considered placing an order in the present conditions of work, control at the yard. Mr Kelly's decision may even more remote the possibility that some form of combined salvage operation can be mounted in time to prevent massive unemployment.

Clydebank to the Government-backed company hardened in the yards yesterday into contemptuous rejection by the men of the Government's plans.

Mr James Airlie and James Reid, leaders at the ship stewards' strike, were derisive of their comments on the appointment of Mr Hugh Stenhouse Glasgow insurance broker, Mr Archibald Kelly, to run new company of Govan Shipbuilders.

The committee confirmed a decision—made known immediately after the announcement of the company by Mr Davie Glasgow on Wednesday—that it would refuse to cooperate with the new board of directors and would not allow them to enter the yards.

Mr Reid said: "It is abundantly clear that all the industrialists in Scotland have refused to do this with a large party. The Government has scratched the bottom of the barrel. It has come up with a hoard which in our view is more reminiscent of 'Monty Python's Fly Circus.' It seemed that Government had found utmost difficulty in getting respect from Scots to serve on board."

Whitehall says jobless could go over 1M

By JOHN PALMER



I'm sorry dear—even Mr Carr thinks I'm disappointing

The numbers without work in the United Kingdom rose to 929,000 in the four weeks to mid-September. Figures announced yesterday confirmed the worst fears of the trade unions—that more than a million will be out of work in a few months—and leaders of industry are to meet Ministers to press for further action to reflate the economy.

The September figures come as Whitehall economists have completed a study of likely economic trends next year. These suggest that if the economy does not pick up soon unemployment may rise to between one million and 1.1 million. Even if there is a recovery there are fears that the total will not fall to below 800,000 next year.

Unemployment last month increased by 24,931. In Great Britain rose from 3.7 to 3.9 per cent of the registered labour force—or an increase of 24,687 to 883,553. In Northern Ireland unemployment among men averages 10.5 per cent, and in some areas it is 20 per cent or more.

Once again the September figures are the worst for any month since 1940. Not only is there no evidence of any slowdown in the rate of increase, but there was a further, ominous, drop in job vacancies. In some industrial blackspots of Scotland and the North there are now 40 unemployed men for each available job.

In view of this spiralling increase the sombre tone of Gov-

ernment comment was not surprising. Mr Carr, Secretary for Employment, conceded that the figures were "very disappointing and serious" and that the only bright spot was the number of school-leavers who had found jobs last month.

The Government, Mr Carr said, understood as well as anybody that unemployment was the greatest social curse, and "getting rid of it is the first priority." Everyone should make an effort to peg prices and wages in an effort to beat inflation. "If we do that I am sure we shall get expansion. If we don't, then we shall be in trouble."

But defending the Government's economic record, he said that the economy had been

given its biggest ever stimulus in a single year, but it would take "some time" for this to have effect on employment prospects.

Alarm in industry at the unemployment trend is now so great that leaders of the Confederation of British Industry are to meet Ministers next week. Mr W. Campbell Adamson, Director-General of the CBI, said yesterday that the figures were causing "a great deal of concern."

He added: "The situation has also to be seen in the context of growth for the economy as a whole and the CBI will be watching closely to see whether the Chancellor's recent measures are proving effective." These comments are the first clear indication that industry is losing faith in repeated Government promises that economic recovery is just round the

corner. However, when he sees Ministers, Mr Adamson will be able to point to one item of cheer: a marked slowdown in the rate of increase of wholesale prices in August.

Another, more predictable comment came from Mr Ian Mikardo, chairman of the Labour Party. Describing the figures as "a tragedy for the whole nation," Mr Mikardo said: "Mr Robert Carr has told us with a blinding glimpse of the obvious that this situation is 'very serious.' He should not be telling us that, he should be telling Mr Heath and Mr Barber."

Mr Feather, general secretary of the TUC, said there was a growing suspicion that the Government was using the figures as a lever to strengthen the position of employers, but added: "There is nothing for the good of the nation in an employment situation of this kind."

"High as it is, the unemployment figure is an understatement of the true position. There are scores of thousands of women out of work who are not included in the over-all total. Short-time working is on the increase in manufacturing alone, 70,000 workers are on short-time. The real loss of output brought about by the government's policies is already equivalent to more than one million unemployed."

There are signs of genuine bafflement in Government circles at the persistent rise. On past precedents the stimulants given to the economy in April and in the summer should have already reduced the numbers without work.

Social work for the unemployed, page 12

Wading No halt yet to in on detentions Ulster

By DEREK BROWN and SIMON WINCHESTER

Continued from page one
There seems little prospect that the Northern Ireland Government has any immediate plans to end its current policy on internment without trial men suspected of belonging to the IRA. Another batch of suspects was arrested in the Andersonstown housing estate in Belfast early yesterday morning, to be detained under the Special Powers Act regulations.

The determination with which the Government seems to be continuing the policy would seem to devalue Mr Gerry Fitt's offer, made in yesterday's Westminster emergency debate, to take his party into an Ulster Government alongside Unionists if the internment policy were to be ended.

Yesterday's arrests of five youths and a middle-aged man in Andersonstown brought in their train a brief but angry reaction from local Catholic residents. Troops were stoned, a bus was hijacked and burned, and the army was forced to fire gas and rubber bullets.

Although the Army said its soldiers had been the target for sniper fire, local people claimed there had been no shooting at the troops. They said that soldiers had fired rubber bullets at the women and children who had gathered in the streets to protest at the arrests, and they pointed out bullet marks, which, they said, had all been made by random military gunfire.

Men of the 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment have now

made early morning sorties into the vast estate each morning this week, arresting a small number of people on each occasion. Most have been held in a stockade at the regional barracks in Holywood, four miles from Belfast, for up to 48 hours, and have been served with detention orders. A 16-year-old youth, who was arrested on Tuesday morning, was released yesterday afternoon. His father and older brother, who had also been taken away by troops, had been released earlier in the week.

Others are expected to be taken to the Government's new internment camp at Long Kesh, near Lisburn, where most of the 219 men now formally interned are being imprisoned. The men were taken there last Sunday from temporary quarters aboard the prison ship Maidstone or from the Crumlin Road prison in Belfast.

Long Kesh, a former military airfield, which also houses REME workshops and an army vehicle dump, has now become something of a tourist spectacle as well as a conveniently sited focal point for anti-internment protests. Visits to the camp, including relatives of the internees and Stormont Opposition MPs, have complained bitterly at conditions inside the high perimeter fences, and yesterday the Ministry of Home Affairs confirmed that the number of internees have been refusing meals. A relative of one of the men said: "All the place needs now to make it into a real concentration camp is a few gas chambers."

Men of the 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment have now

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Management Guide to Computers (1-day course)

An informal introduction to the fundamental principles of a digital computer and the duties of computer staff for the benefit of Executive and Senior Management Personnel. Next course begins: Thursday November 11th, 1971. Fee: £25.

Management Introduction to Computers (2-day course)

Designed for senior and middle management staff who need a basic understanding of the computer and the techniques of systems analysis and programming. Next course: Monday and Tuesday November 8th and 9th, 1971. Fee: £45.

Computer Appreciation Course (4-day course)

Devised for personnel who will be specifically concerned with the computer department, it covers Data Capture, Recording and Manipulation; Systems Design and Decision Recording; Documentation and Report Writing Methods; Programming Techniques. Next course: Tuesday - Friday November 18th-19th, 1971. Fee: £85.

In each case the Fee includes course documentation, lunch and refreshments.

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TUC ultimatum on register

By JOHN TORODE, Labour Correspondent

The TUC has toughened still further its campaign against the Industrial Relations Act.

The general council has given all affiliated unions until next Friday to tell the Registrar that they do not wish to be entered on his provisional register with news that two more unions have decided to ignore the TUC boycott and sign on with the registrar because of the legal protection it will give them.

The ultimatum coincided with the fact that the British Airline Pilots' Association, and the Managers and Overlookers' Society—a small textile union.

In addition, Mr William Hogarth, general secretary of the National Union of Seamen, has warned the TUC that it is unlikely that his union will reverse its decision to register. All three unions could find themselves put "on trial" by the general council and suspended from the TUC if they continue their defiance.

The TUC instruction is, in two respects, firmer than expected. It makes no advance allowance for those unions which want to come before the general council and ask to be exempted from the boycott because of special difficulties in their industries. It ignores the legal problems of those unions whose rule books compel them to register.

On the question of exemptions, the general council has taken the view that unions must show their good faith by coming off the register first. Then they can seek TUC permission to apply for eventual registration. As for the legal difficulties, they are quite simply ignored

in the TUC instruction. Unions have been sent a standard letter to go to the Registrar requesting deregistration "with immediate effect." Unions which are legally unable to comply are given no guidance.

The Transport and General Workers' Union, which faces this problem, is to call a rules revision conference before the end of the year to alter its rules and allow deregistration.

STOP PRESS

GOVERNMENT MAJORITY 129 IN ULSTER DEBATE (See Page 1)

Government majority 129 in Ulster debate. Voting 203-74. Many Labour MPs appeared to have abstained.

THE WEATHER

AROUND THE WORLD

(Lunchtime reports)

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AROUND BRITAIN

Reports for the 24 hours ended 6 p.m. yesterday:

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Becoming colder

A cold N airstream will sweep over all parts of the British Isles.

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